

THE
STATE
OF
FRANCE

As it stood in the IXth year of
this present Monarch,
LEWIS XIII.

Written to a Friend
By



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THE
STATE
OF
FRANCE

As it stood in the 17th century
this present Monarch.

LEWIS XIII.

Printed in London

1652

Printed by W. Stansfeld, at the
Sign of the Anchor, in St. Dunstons Church-yard
near the North Gate of London.

The State of FRANCE,

as it stood in the Ninth year of
his present Monarch

LEWIS the XIII.

Since I had first

Since I had first
the honour to
become one of
those whose
Conversation
you have che-
rished with so many signall
obligations; and as it were
currents of civility; I can hard-

ly

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ly think that (when by so many literal expresses and personal commands, you enjoin me to deliver something in writing, touching the late Subject of our discourse) you have either cause to delight in my univall conceptions, or designe my discredit: For however your instances have at last prevailed, yet your Honor is no lesse concerned to be tender how you publish my defects, whilest in them onely (though the faults be mine) men will so peremptorily conclude your want of judgment, and condemn your Election. But you have promised to be discreet, and I shall then make a saving adventure

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of my Reputation with you,
who have candor and charity
not from the *Multitude*; but
the stock of your own worth
and ingenuous Education; of
which this *Essay* will be rather
an History, then any thing o-
therwise capable to informe
you, who know already so
much more, and better, then I
can possibly either write or
relate.

But to begin once, since it
is my fate to obey you; I shall
nothing alter the *Scene*, which
was then Presented you, when
you were pleased (as it since
appears) to take notice of those
casuall Discourses of mine,
wherein I posted over the

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best Remarks, and most materiall Observations, which my weak Judgment had been able to recollect, during my so many *Pererrations*, and unprofitable *Sojourn* abroad, and especially in this Kingdome of *France*.

Nor wil I vex your patience with any *Topographicall Descriptions*, as being the daily subject of your Contemplations, when at any time you please to refresh your self amongst those exquisite *Cards* of the latest and most accurate *Edititions*. But represent, in as succinct a Method as I am able, what in order to Affairs (as in the Government of this most active

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Active and industrious Monarchie they now stand) I conceive to be chiefly proper and requisite for, an Gentleman of that Nation (under the notion of a Traveller) to be able to render an account of at his Return: And therefore, before I proceed further, I will comply with your desire, and speak a word or two (by way of Introduction, or Digression rather) of my sentiments and opinion touching Foreign Travel in General, wherein I shall also deal very impartially with all the world concerning mine own particular, as being (I hope) taking my long farewell thereof of two thirds to add to two thirds

A 5 That

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That which first rendred
me of this Apodemick humout,
(I shall not discourse here of
Mercuriall complexions, whom
Physiognomists affirm to be *Indi-
vidua vaga's*, like my self) pro-
ceeded from a certain vaine
Emulation which I had to see
the best of Education, which
every body so decrying at
Home, made me conceive, was
a commodity onely to be
brought from a far Countrey;
and I cannot say, without a
little ambition too of knowing,
or at least of having the pri-
viledg. to talk something more
then others could reasonably
pretend to, that had never bin
out of sight of their owne
chimnies

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chimnies smoke : All which was a Ridiculous affectation, contracted first from the ordinary *Radomontadas* of such as have seen strange places, and great want of discretion, and so fondly transported with the pleasure onely, and temptation of *Novelties*, the very instrumental causes of this unsettled extravagancy.

True it is, *Non omnis fert omnia Tellus* : for the great and good God hath discreetly, and very wisely disposed, in the furnishing and adorning (as I may say) of this *Terrestrial Cabinet*, having left no one part or corner thereof without some thing specially different,
and

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and admirably remarkable, either in the composition, quality or use; all of them, according to their position, situation, and effects, admirably commodious, and dependant; of which *divine Oeconomy* there may be infinitely more spoken, then will be suitable to this design, after I have inferred that for these respects only, a *Traveller* has some excuse, as well as encouragement to go abroad and see the world.

Now then, for as much as the end of all our *Appetites*, wisely inquired into, ought to be the principal *Mira*, and terme to all our actions, he that would travel rationaly, and like

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like a Philosopher, must industriously apply himself to the pursuit of such things, as (throughout all his *Peregrinations*) may result most to the profit, and Emolument of his own Country at his Return; whether in the accomplishing of his person or affairs, there being nothing more veritable, then that saying of *Homer*,

Alibi s' d'ne s'le iob s'le, xer s'le s'le s'le.

Tu pe quidem mansisse diu, vixitque redire.

And therefore *Peregrinatio animi imperio, & corporis ministerio debet perfici*. For so it was that *Ptolomies* young Noblemen, of whose rich freight and return wee read of, travelled, and brought home with them
wares.

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wares of more value, then if they had transported Gold and Pearles. For the same cause PYTHAGORAS took leave of his Friends and native Country, to which hee afterwards returned with the Learning of the Egyptians, as Strabo in his seventh Book and fourteenth Chapt.

Περ' Αιγυπτίων μαθησίου εισηγησίας χάρου.
And not as Plinie affirmeth, *Exiliis verius quam peregrinationibus susceptis*: Nay, his passion and thirst after this excellent Commerce was so admirable, that the same Authour in Syren. tells us, he made nothing of Circumcising himself, that so hee might with the more freedom, and lesse suspicion

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cioni pry into their profound-
est Mysteries : For therefore
were the Egyptian Priests, cal-
led *ἀποκρύφτοι*, incommunicable, and
ἀμετέχνητοι, imparticipable: *Clem. Alex.*

Such a designed THA-
LES, EUDOXUS, APOL-
LONIUS, nay PLATO him-
self, and divers other renown-
ed Personages, *Εἰς Αἰγύπτου ἀρχιερεῖς
ἀποκρύφτους καὶ ἀμετέχνητους* To
comprehend (saith Plutarch)
the Mysteries of Philosophy and
Divinitie: As it seems, esteem-
ing the Egyptians to be the
most Ancient and Noble peo-
ple of the whole World, both
for the wisdom of their Consti-
tutions, and exceeding Reverence
which they bare to Learning
These

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These being indeed the fruits & most noble acquisitions, which a Gentleman (who is a qualified Traveller) should study and endeavour to furnish himself with whilst he is abroad.

But these, some may object, are *Heathen* examples, *Christians* are content to be less curious, and stay at home. Saint *Hierom* shall be mine Instance on this occasion, and truly, it is worth the reading what he hath delivered in one of his *Epist.* and *Paulinam*, you shall find it prefixed (amongst severall, to other) to *Sixtus* his Edition of the Bible, when (after those words, *Legimus in veteribus historiis quosdam hystriasse* *Indit* Provincias

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provincias, novos adisse Populos,
maria transisse: ad eos quos ex
libris noverant, coram quoque
viderent, &c.) making a very
ample repetition of what I have
before spoken in the persons of
other men, and especially of
the incomparable Pythagoras;
and those noble youths who
went out of France and Spaine;
only to hear the eloquence of
Livie, when quos ad contemplati-
nem sui ipsa Roma non traxerat,
minus hominis fama perduxit, re-
ferring us to the eight volumes
which Philostratus hath pur-
posely written on this subject;
thus he expostulates, Quid lo-
quar de saculi hominibus, &c. what
do I troubling you with old
stories

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stories : when the *Apostle Paul* himselfe ; that vessell of Election ; and Doctour of the *Gentiles* dispersed the Christian Religion through so great a part of the world ; by his almost perpetuall *Peregrination* ; after his miraculous conversion ; the like may be affirmed of the rest of the *Apostles* ; and even our *Blessed Saviour* himselfe ; but I recommend you to the Authour. On the other side, as we have justly censured those who meerly run abroad out of that vanity of spirit, and such trivial considerations as I have already reproached in myselfe ; so are we likewise to disband another sort of travellers, whose

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whose Cynical reservednesse, declares to the world that they have only minded the sensuality and satisfaction of a private *Gusto* : communicating usually at their return but what may justly merit that repriment which *Socrates* once gave to a young man who would render him no account of all his long absence, *quod se cum peregrinatus fuerit* : in the mean time, as much to be abhorred is all manner strangeness, disdain, Affectation and loquacity, by which so many travellers now a days (for the most part) distinguish themselves from the Vulgar, to that over acted degree of mimicall

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call folly, as one would easily imagine they had all this while lived in Pension rather amongst Apes, and Parrats, than ever either seen, or conversed with persons of Ingenuity or Honour.

To proceed therefore, presuppose Travell *in suscipiatur propter unum aliquem finem*, as we have already constituted it: we are yet to give our young Subject leave to be so far *practical*, as that he do not slip any opportunity by which he may inform himself as well in things even *Mechanically* curious and usefull, as altogether in the Mysteries of Government and Policy which

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which indeed are more appo-
sitely termed *Philosophicall*.
Those who have imposed on
themselves, and others, so ma-
ny different species of travell,
as it may be said to contain
Theoreticall parts in it, that is to
say, the *Metaphysicall*, *Physicall*,
and *Mathematicall*, &c, in my ap-
prehension, more exact and
tedious in their *Analysing*, then
perhaps they needed to have
been; of them therefore I say
no more: it shall be sufficient
for him whom I send abroad,
that he conform himself to
such precepts as are only
necessary, not cumbersome;
which Rule he shall likewise
do well to observe even in his
mid very

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very necessary *decontremens*
and *port-manteau*.

First then, supposing him
to be a Young Gentleman apt for
all Impressions; but from his
primary education inclined to the
most worthy: having set his
Foot upon the Continent, his
first study shall be to master
the tongue of the Country
wherein hee resolves to Re-
side; which ought to be un-
derstood perfectly, written
congruouly, and spoken intel-
ligently: after which he may
do well to accomplish him-
self in such exercises, as are most
commendable at home, and
best attayned abroad; which
will be a means of rendering
him

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him very fit, and apt for
the generall society of that
Nation amongst whom hee
converses, and consequent-
ly the better qualifie him to
frequent, without blush, such
particular places, and persons
by whom he may best profite
himselfe in the Mysteries of
their Polity, or what other
perfection they are renowned
for, according as his par-
ticular *Genius* and inclinations
import him. But this hee
shall never attain unto, till
he begin to be somewhat ripe-
ned and seasoned in a place;
for it is not every man that
crosses the Seas, hath been of
an

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an Academy, learned a *Corra*
to, and speaks the *Language*
whom I esteem a *Traveller*
(of which piece most of our
English are in these countrey
at present) but he that (in
stead of making the *Tour*, as
they call it) or, as a late *Em*
bassador of ours facetiously, but
sharply reproached, (like
Goose swimmes down the *Ri*
ver) having mastered the
Tongue, frequented the *Court*
looked into their customs, been
present at their pleadings, ob
served their *Military* Discipline
contracted acquaintance with
their *Learned* men, studied as
their *arts*, and is familiar

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ar with their *dispositions*, makes
this accompt of his time. The
principal advantages which a
Gentleman thus made, may
observe, and apply, are Truth,
Taciturnitie, *facetiousnesse* with-
out *morosity*, *courage*, *modesty*,
hardinesse, *patience*, *frugality*,
and an excellent temper in the
Regiment of his health and
Affections, especially in point
of *Drink* and *Tobacco*, which is
our Northerne, Nationall, and
most sordid of *Vices*. It is (I
confesse) a thing extreamly
difficult to be at all times, and
in all places thus reserved, and
as it were obliged to a Temper
so *Statick* and exact among all

B

con;

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conversations; nor for mine own part, do I esteem it in all cases necessary, provided a man be furnished with such a stock of prudence, as he know how, and when to make use even of his companions extravagancies, (as then frequently betraying more freely their inclinations, than at times of their more serious recollection, and first addresses.) Seeing I find it generally impossible for a Traveller to evade some occasions & encounters, which (if he be at all practical) he will *volens volens*, perceive himself engaged into at some one time or other. But

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to recover this deviation, and return to our purpose ; the vertues which our Traveller is to bring home when he doth *Repatriare* (as *Solinus* terms it) are either publick, such namely as concern the service of his Country ; or Private, and altogether personall, in order to his particular advantage and satisfaction : and, beleeve it Sir, if he reap some contentment extraordinary, from what he hath observed abroad, The pains, solicitations, watchings, Perills, journeys, ill enterteinment, absence from Friends, and innumerable like inconveni-

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ences

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ences, joyned to his vast expences, do very dearly, and by a strange kind of extortion, purchase that smal experience and reputation which he can vaunt to have acquired from abroad.

Those who boast of *Philologicall Peregrinations* (falsly so called) which they undertake meerly for the flourish and Tongue of a Place, possesse onely a *Paret-vertue*; It is one of the *Shells* of Travel (though I confesse, the kernel is not to be procured without it: And *Topical*; in which I finde the *Dutch* *δοκίμοι*, generally most accurate and industrious; both of them serve well for the enter-

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ertainment of Women and Children, who are commonly more imported with wonder and *Romance*, then that solid and reall Emolument, which is (through these *Instruments*) to be conveyed us from abroad.

It is written of *Ulysses*, that hee saw many Cities indeed, but withall his Remarks of mens Manners and Customs, was ever preferred to his counting Steeples, and making *Tours*: It is this *Ethicall* and *Morall* part of Travel, which embellisheth a Gentleman, in the first place, having a due respect to the *Religion*, which

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accomplisheth a Christian :
In short, they are all severally
very commendable, accom-
modated to *Persons* and *Pro-
fessions* ; nor should a *Ca-
valier* neglect to be seen in all
of them : But for that my in-
tention is here to make an
Introduction onely into mine
OWN OBSERVATIONS, I shall
forbear to enter so large and
ample a Field, as the through
handling of this Argument
would insensibly oblige mee
to do, it having likewise been
so abundantly treated of al-
most by every Pen which hath
prevaricated on this *Subject* ;
though, in my slender judg-
ment,

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ment, and under favour, I must
confesse, without any real and
ingenuous satisfaction either to
Truth, or Curiosity.

To conclude (Sir) and con-
tract this tedious transgression,
I conjure you to beleave, that
I offer nothing to you in this
discourse, out of any the least
self opinion, censure of other
men, vanity, or ostentation.
No, I am assured you will
find me far enough from that
Idiopathia, and common di-
stemper of Travellers; all I shall
pretend being but to commu-
nicate unto you, how I have
lost part of those seven ryzaces,
and more, which, not be-
ing

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ing (as in truth they ought to have been) wholly exercised in the Benefit I might have reaped from your Society at home, I am obliged in Honour, and for Justification of my self, to render you an Accompt how they have been dispensed abroad. I am very conscious to my self, how much mine owne little interest hath suffered, during mine absence, in the judgement of your stayed and more Thriving *Geniuses*, and such as might justly indeed derive *Characters*, and Prognosticks from a raw and unsettled spirit, such as was mine: but

con-

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considering that all those transitory *Accidents* of Fortune and the world, can no way farther extend themselves, then to a very imperfect satisfaction of our regular and honest Appetites, (besides that which they ought yeeld unto others,) neither he who stayes at *home*, nor he that goes *abroad*, is (in mine opinion) to be altogether censured and blamed; and truely, he that can accommodate himself to so retired and contemplative a life, as certainly that of a pure *Country Gentlemans* is, frees himself of an innumerable Host of troubles, and impor-

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tunities which a Traveller runs through, and is in a manner compelled to entertain. Conformable to that of the most incomparable *Claudian*, *De Sene Veronensi, Epig.*

*Felix qui propriis avum transegit in arvis :
Ipsa domus puerum quem vides, ipsa senem :
Qui baculo nitens, in qua replevit arena
Nimium numerat secula longa casa.
Illam non vario traxit fortuna tumultu ,
Nec hibis ignotas mobilis hospes aquas.
Non fræta mercator simuis, non classica miles :
Non ranci lites pertulit ille fori.
Indocilis rerum, vicina nescius urbis,
Adspectu fruitor liberiore poli.
Fragibus alternis, non Consule, computas annum :
Autumnus pomis, ver sibi flere notat.
Idem condit ager Soles, idemque reducit,
Metiturque suo rusticus orbe diem.
Ingentem meministi parvo qui germine quercum,
Æqua unumque vides consensisse nemus.
Proxima cui nigris Verona remotior Indis,
Benacumque putat litora rubra lacum.*

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*Sed sament indomita vias, firmisque lacertis
 Etas robustum vertice caruit avum.
 Errat, & extremos alter scrutatur lheras,
 Plus habet hic vita, plus habet ille Via.*

The serious contemplation
 whereof, made me sometimes
 (being at Naples) break forth
 in this youthful, but naturall
 Ode against Travell, which I wil
 here pro-
 nounce for
 my finall

* *Epibate-
 rium.*

* *Scat. lib. 3. Poet. r. 106. diff.*
ὅτι ἀντιπαρτίδης ἢ παρτίδης:
 being a speech which was made
 to the Citizens by him that was
 returned home after his long
 travell.

Happie that Man who lives content
 With his own Home and Countreys,
 Those chiding streams his banks do curb,
 Esteems the Ocean to his Orb;
 Round which, when he a walk does take,
 Thinks to perform as much as Drake.
 For other Tongues, he takes no thought,
 Then what his Nurse or Mother taught.
 He's not disturb'd with the rude cries
 Of the * *Proscia's* [Up and Rise.]

* *The guide or Messenger in Italy, who
 in the Morning calls to Horse.*

But

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But charmd in down, sleeps by the side
Of his chaste Love, or Loyall Bride,
In whose smooth Arms no sooner burld,
But he enjoys another world;
Where his Enfranchis'd hand may stray,
O're the warm snow, or milkie way,
And thence as oft as it declines
Tow'rd those more rich and hidden Mines,
Scornes us that travell Lands and Seas,
Beleeves no Kingdomes like to these.

If then at home such joyes be had,
Oh how unwise are we, how mad!

† *Haec Comice della casa ne ma'e capiat.*

This I did once write, and
this I so beleeve, (as if God
blesse me with a successfull
Returne into my Native
Country) I shall endeavour
Vivere, non dicere huic veritati: and
though the Conscience of my
personall inabilities, can never
tempt me with the vanity to
think of any publick Ad-
van.

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vancement, for having spent the prime of my years and youth abroad; yet the contentment, and satisfaction which I purpose and fancie to my self, if I may obtaine leave but to enjoy that private condition and Fortune, which Heaven hath decided me at home, so that I can but rubb out of this, into a better world, without the least impeachment to my Religion and Loyalty, *Sublimi ferriam sydera vertice*: I shall have arrived at the *sumum* and very top of mine innocent wishes. But, if in the mean time, it be otherwise ordained, I have learned likewise to submit

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mit my self unto the will of
God, as being very apt to
beleeve that excellent *Apoph-*
thegme of the Wise man, *Quod*
Omne solum sit Forti Patria.

But now to our TRAVELLER
again.

The principall places of
EUROPE, wherein a Gen-
tleman may, *uno intuitu*, behold
as in a Theater the chief and
most signall Actions which
(out of his owne Countrey)
concerne this later Age and
part of the World, are the
Netherlands, comprehending
Flanders, and the divided Pro-
vinces; which is a perfect En-
cycle

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cycle and Synopsis of whatsoe-
ver one may elsewhere see in
all the other Countreyes
of *Europe*; And for this end,
I willingly recommend them
to be first visited, no other-
wise, then do those who di-
rect us in the study of History
to the reading first of some au-
thentick *Epitome*, or universall
Chronology, before we adventure
to launch forth into that vast
and profound *Ocean* of volumi-
nous Authours. From thence
I would advise him to traverse
Germany, (altogether contrary
to the Vulgar Method) by rea-
son of that so usefull Tongue,
which he will find very diffi-
cult

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cult, and with much regret, and many conflicts attained unto, after the facill, and more smooth Languages are once thoroughly imbibed, not omitting (comparatively) even the *French* it self. From this *Region* you naturally slide into *Italy*, and then Embarking for *Spain*, return by a direct course unto *Paris*; where indeed, I would have the Principall abroad of a Gentleman to be, not only in Relation to the *Court*, and exercises acquired in that City; but also in respect to his expenses. This may seem a *Paradox* to some; but for my part, I never

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re- ever found any wood to a great
s at- town; and when my Traveller
will, hath cast it up, and made a true
ages Audite of all *Extraordinaries*, he
ed, will find, what for *removalls*,
ely) and what for the perill of dis-
om bauched and frequent colla-
ally tionings (for in all other little
m- towns his acquaintance will
by be universall, the *English* per-
is; petually intervisiting, with a
ave grosse ingredient of *Dutch*,) a
en. very little, or inconsiderable
Re- disproportion in the total Ac-
rci- compt.

out Thus I propose *France* in the
ses. last place, for many other re-
to spects which here I purposely
ne- omit to enumerate, that I may
ver avoid

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avoid the *tedium* of so long a discourse; but especially, for this, that our *Traveller* may have the more time and resolution to conquer the *Language*, and go through those hardy and most eminent exercises which are there to be learned in their choicest perfection and native lustre; after which, with a competent tincture of their best conversation (for the over reservedness of the *Italian*, and severity of the *Spaniard*, as well as the blunt garb of the *Dutch*, would in an *Englishman* be a little Paliated; for fear it become affected) he may return home, and

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ing and be justly reputed a most
for accomplished Cavalier.

may To the other part of your
reso Request, Sir, that I should
Lan give you some touches of the
those Low Countryes, and other pla-
ex-ces (besides the wrong I should
be do to those perfect relations al-
per ready extant) observing them at
af a time when my judgment was
ent not altogether so mature, & my
er self so much a Dutch Traveller, (as
ed I have before rendred you the
eri Character) I had rather make an
the Apology for what I have already,
uld and promise yet to say, then
al proceed to depose allegations
ff under mine own hand, of the
e, losse of so much precious time,
nd and

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and betray mine Ignorance. Self

Touching *Italy*, the *States* are need
so many, and their *policy* so many
different, that it would cost Per
me more leasure then I have wh
now to spend, to reduce, and safe
discipline my scattered papers, such
and such indigested collections on
as require a more formal *Method*
thod, and indeed, a better pen. tru

Nor could your *Servant* in qu
truth, have been possibly induc
ced to discover thus far his e. Pr
gregious imperfections; did mi
not your Arguments carry in im
them some specious reproach, de
as well as your Person so great lit
an authority over me, when ex
you please to perswade your ha
Self m

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Self the Advantage I must
needs (say you) have had by
my extraordinary Relations to
Persons of affaire, as well as
what I might happily in this
and case gather lawfully out of
such as have the latest written
on this Subject. So that how-
ever (and as indeed the very
truth is) I was least of all in-
quisitive how others were go-
verned, finding it so difficult a
Province to Regulate my self, yet
did mine endeavor to pacifie your
importunity, and render you a
demonstration of mine inabi-
lities to cōply with any future
expectation of this Nature,
hath in fine, extorted this from
me, as an intire resignation &
sa-

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crifice of my reputation to the obedience which I professedly ow you, ever more preferring the satisfaction of so noble Friend, to the very promulgation of my own shame and most visible imbecilities.

- So then (to approach our purpose) seeing all those Nations (before spoken of) and several governments seem at this instant *Epoche* of time, to conspire as it were, and deferr to the present *Grandezza* of the *French* Empire, as likewise considering in what Relation we of *England* are concerned, I have esteemed it best meriting my reflections and your patience, to finish, and dresse this *Peece*, as judging it most

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most worthy the considera-
tion.



ERRATA's committed (in absence of the Author, almost the whole time this Book was in Presse) the ingenious Reader is desired to reform, thus: Page 8 in marg. for *are* read *late*. pag. 10 in mar. r. *Charalier*. p. 27 r. *Ma-*
offical. p. 31 l. ult. a [,] betwixt *Deuianer Tailles*. p. 34
l. 9 a parenthesis at certain (&c. pag. 16 r. *Treasurers* p.
36 r. of *the Tailles* p. 50 r. which is *drivin of that Trade*.
pag. 51. l. 1. a parenthesis at (for &c. p. 52 in mar. r. *Cap.*
p. 53 r. *whom we* p. 56. after *Legate* dele [,] p. 57 r. *it will*
be &c p. 67 r. *France*. p. 62. r. *each Souldiers head*. *ibid.*
and as Garison. p. 63. r. *their hands*. p. 69 r. *but for that*
p. 70 after *State Affairs* dele [:] *ibid.* r. *of far greater &c.*
p. 71 r. *poverty*. p. 74. r. *abill* p. 78 r. *are estimated*. p. 81.
dele or before interests p. 87 for *of strength* r. *a strength*.
p. 90 r. *most of consequence &c.* with divers o her mis-
imputations.





The STATE OF FRANCE.

Will begin with a
 saying of *Nich. Machiavel*: *La Corona è* *Machiavel's*
li Regi di Francia so- *saying of*
no hoggi più ricchi, & France,
più potenti che mai. The Crown
 and Kings of *France*, are at this
 day more opulent and mighty
 then ever they were ; so that
 Prince of *Politicians*, a great
 while since : and without contro-
 versie, had he any reason to give it
 out so in his time, we have much
 more to affirm the same in these
 our days, wherein they have e-
 merged

merged, as it were, the sole victorious and Flourishing Nation of *Europe*, in whose bosome *Nature* hath even built this goodly Kingdom.

Victory and
greatness
the effect of
sovereign
power and
prudent
Councell.

That where a Sovereign Prince is able to maintain an absolute and unarbitrary jurisdiction over his subjects, managed with an active and prudent Councell, there, and rarely elsewhere, doth victory and greatness bless and favour a Nation with any permanent success, is a verity most demonstrable: whether we reflect on the present Age, or those frequent Examples of the *Romans* and *Athenians*, whose desertion and abandoning of their Royall superiours fomented such confusion and distraction amongst the *Nobles* and *Plebeians*, as could never be afterwards composed even to the ultimate destruction and lamentable catastrophe of those most illustrious Republicks.

From the
example of
the *Romans*,
Athenians.

But in vaine do wee seek for
other

other Instances of this great Truth, then the present progression, and almost quotidian conquests of the now flourishing *Ottoman* Family; which, as it is the most invincible upon earth, so must we needs acknowledg it to be the most *independent* and absolute which these later times have likely produced unto us. But for that this is a Verity which may now adayes cost a man his *Teeth* (to lose nothing else in the pursuit) I shall prosecute it no further then may serve to illustrate what it is which hath of late rendred so potent and *aggrandized* this present aspiring, & formidable Monarchy, *France*; of which I shall next essay to give a brief *Character*.

and *Ottomanians*; though now a dangerous Truth.

And now, as in description of *Bodies naturall*, *Dissections* begin ever with the supreme and more noble Regions; so in *anatomising* the Kingdom of *France*, which consists of a *Body Politick*, I will commence with the Head; that is,

The Kings
of France
absolute
since Lewis
the 11.
his laying,

S Denys the
patron of F.
deposed, to
gratifie the
B. Virgin.

For with
these words
of course,
the Secretary
(it seems)
concluded
the Arrest,
whereby it
was confer-
red, which
gave many
occasion to
reproach it.

The Monar-
chy of Fr.
when found-
ded

the King; whom here I may call as
Absolute; since Lewis the Eleventh
hath so long since (to use his own
expression) put them *hors de page*;
that is, freed them from that
grand authority, which, till his
time, the *Parliament* indeed ex-
ercised over them; so that now
the same reason which moved the
late kings to depose or translate
Saint Denys their ancient Patron,
and to put his Kingdome for-
mally under the protection of
the blessed Virgin, is esteemed
good reason, and sufficient Logick
for all his present Commands
whatsoever: *Car tel est nostre bon
plaisir*: for such is our good will
and pleasure.

*Sic volo, sic jubeo, Stat pro Rati-
one Voluntas.*

For so we will, so we command,
Our will do's for our Reason
stand.

The Monarchy of France (from
a Democrattick state) was founded
anno. 420. and hath continued
itself under three severall Ra-

ces; viz. of *Meroveſe*, *Charle mayn* continued
son of *Pepin*, and laſtly, *Hue-ca-* under three
pet; from whom this Royal houſe Races.
of *Bourbon* derives its ſucceſſion,
branched from *Robert Earle* of
Clermont fourth ſon of *Saint*
Lewis; ſo that the King at preſent
Reigning is the ſixty fifth Mo-
narch of *France*, without that a-
ny of the *Feminine Sex* hath or-
dinarily intervened; as they af-
firm at leaſt, from a very invete-
rate Law, which they intitle the
Salique, being indeed but a meer
Romance of their own feigning, a
piece of *legier de main*, by which
they have ſo long pretended with
the great ſhadow of Juſtice to
elude and invalidate the title of
our former and ancient Kings
of *England*, as to ſucceſſion in the
right of their Mothers and
Wives.

Touching that other Legend of
their *Sainte Amponle*, which in
the time of *Clouis* firſt *Chriſtian* as well as
King of *France* was (as they give their *Sainte*
out) brought by an Angel from *Amponle*,
Heaven

The Daughters of Fr. sometimes married to private persons, yet reserve their Titles and Surnames.

And the Queens admitted to the Regency during the minority of the Kings.

The title of the F. Kings

Heaven, & reserved at *Rheims* for the Royal *Chrisme*, we will give it leave to passe as a vulgar, yet not impolitick error, or impertinent tradition: however, by the device aforesaid, the *Daughters* succeed not to the Crowne, some of them having oftentimes married themselves unto private men, but still reserved their Titles, together with the *Surnames* of *France*, which it seems is an Honour permitted them during life, to shew from what *stock* they originally derived. Notwithstanding this, the *Queens* of *France*, are usually admitted to the *Regency* during the *Minority* of the *King*, which is at the age of fourteen years, *inchoative*; until which term, they with their *counsell* administer the publick Affairs of *State*, without equall or Controule.

Concerning the Title or adjunct of the Kings of *France*, which is most *Christian*, and eldest son of the *Church*, they make no small

small borsts; for not having been
a complement (as they name it)
sent them from Rome, as were
those of other Kings; but de-
scended, time out of Mind, from
their own vertue, merits, and Pi-
ety.

The *Eldest son of France* is ^{of his eldest son.} during the life of his Father, cal-
led the *Dauphin*, from a stipula-
tion (as it seems) made with *Um-
bert*: who bequeathed that Pro-
vince conditionally to *Philip de
Valois*.

To speak something particu-
larly of this little-great Monarch ^{Birth and Character of the present King.} *Lewis the fourteenth*, born Sept.
5. 1638 after the Queen his Mo-
ther had been above twenty yeers
without Issue, as his production
was almost miraculous (not to
repeate here any bold disquisiti-
ons, with those who give them-
selves a liberty in these days, to
speak evil of dignities) so is his
person a Character doubtless of
no lesse Majesty, and fair hopes;
and certainly, if his Education be

Artifice of
the French
Queen and
publick mi-
nisters in the
new kings
Education.

fitted to the prognosticks of his Nature, he cannot but emerge a Prince of singular Qualities and egregious perfections : This I am willing to adde from that *Mechanick* and Artificial breeding, which men conceive some of his progenitors and neereſt relation received ; that ſo not being altogether ſo dextrous and knowing in *King-craft*, as their high calling required, they might with leſſe ſuſpicion and more eaſe ſuffer themſelves to be governed, by the counſels and inclinations of ſuch, whoſe *mystery* and ambition it hath ever been to continue by this means their Greatneſſe, and reinforce their Authority.

Duke of
Anjou his
Character.

This preſent King hath one onely Brother, who is called the *Duke of Anjou* : but more frequently diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Monsieur* ; a child of an extraordinary prompt and ready ſpirit.

Duke of
Orleans his
character.

The other principall branches of this Royall Family, are in the
firſt

first place, *Gaston Jean Baptiste*, the Kings *Duch*, and *Duke of Orleans*, Lieutenant General of the K. and Governor of *Langue-doc*; the same, who during so many years as his Brother was without off-spring, had those fair hopes of a *Crown*; which however his merit and abilities for such a jewel be commonly disputed, to his no great advantage, certainly there is no man alive in competition with him for his exquisite skill in *Medailes*, *Topical memory*, and extraordinary knowledge in *Plants*: In both which faculties the most reputed *Antiquaries* & greatest *Botanists* do (and that with reason) acknowledge him both their Prince, and superiour.

The Eldest daughter of this *Duke*, is *Anne Marie D'orleans*, particularly called *Mademoiselle*, *Sans queue per eminentiam*, as being the first in preeminence, and (after the *Queen*) greatest Lady in *France*, to give whom the

Mademoiselle her character.

Epithetes of her great worth, were to spoile all her sex of their Praises, and make her as much envied, as she is indeed justly to be admired.

Prince of
Condy his
descent and
character.

The next in Blood and Rank is *Louis de Bourbon* the Prince of *Condy*, the son of *Henry de Bourbon*, who (to so little purpose) was yet so miraculously saved in the last bloody and inhumane *Parisian Massacre*. This Prince is *Grand Maître of France*, Governour of *Bourgoigne* and *Berry*, descended by a direct line masculine of *Francois de Bourbon*, second brother of *Antoine of Bourbon*, Earle of *Marle*, afterwards *Duke of Vandosme*, and *King of Navarr*, the Father of *Henry the Great*, and of *Charlot Catherine de la Trimonille*, his second Wife.

A Prince, whose merit in field, and successfull Achievements, high extraction, and extraordinary parts, prompt him sometimes to Enterprises beyond

yond the duty or praise of a Loy-
al subject; for their lives not a
more Ambitious young man up-
on earth, having outlived his im-
prisonment, once chased his ene-
my the Cardinal; and not satisfied
with this revenge (or what ever
other assurances the State can
render him) puts fair by a fresh
Rebellion to speede a prosperous
Taytor; or perfect his Infam-
ie.

His brother is *Armand de*
Bourbon Prince of *Conty*, seeming-
ly designed for the Church; but
susceptible of any other advan-
tage; a prince of a weak fa-
brick and constitution, but sound
intellectuals. They have like-
wise a Sister called, *Mary*, Wife
to the Duke de *Longueville*:

How the daughters of *France*
have been disposed of into *Eng-
land*, *Spain*, *Savoy*, *Mantua*,
&c. will be here superfluous to
relate.

Touching the *Natural issue* of
the Kings of *France* (who are e-

Prince of
Conty his
Character.

daughters of
F. how dis-
posed of.

The naturall
issue of the
K of F. how
esteemed.

ver

ver in this kind Country in very great Reputation and place; suitable to their birth, (by their fathers side) I cannot learne that the late King had any; nay, it is reported, he did so abhorre *Palliardize*, that he scarce thought any other act to be sin in comparison of it: contrary to the opinion of his wise Counselor and *Cardinal de Richlieu*, who (as I have sometime heard) did use often to say, that a *Concubine* was the *best mans recreation*: a Priestly *Aphorism*, and spoken like a Churchman.

The Sovereignty of the French Kingdoms, how it became so absolute.

Now to say something of the *Soueraignty* of the Kings of *France*, we will step a little back, and see by what meanes and degrees it became so absolute.

Whilst the *Nobility* of *France* were in a manner free and independent Princes (for such was heretofore the most part of them) how are *Histories* loud with their carriages and deportment towards their Sovereigns? What

What checks upon every occasion were they ready to give them? Witnesse those frequent impresses of a certain Duke of *Giennes*, *Bourbon*, *Bretagne*, and others of the same rank; nor hath these later times exempted the Crown it self from the dangerous consequences which so many fortified *Towns*, *Governments*, and *Places* of importance have so often menaced, and in effect notably bridling the head of Majesty; untill the defunct and great *Cardinal de Richelieu* found out a speedy and fortunate expedient to reduce them to obedience, and that not onely by subjugating the *Posts* themselves, which he performed by strength; but likewise by so dextrously interressing the *Gentry* and refractory *Nobility*, both by honours and blood, to the Court and his faction, which he did by policy: In fine, he so handled the Cards, that the better sort of people became tractable out of meer respect to their

C. de Rich.
 how his subtilty in reducing it to that independency.

The Kings
absolute
power, both,

In Church
and State,

their Relations; and the manner by an inevitable constraint, as well as the example of their *Chiefs*, were compelled to a due submission; so that now the Sovereignty of *France* is become so *Independent* and absolute, that albeit it do still retaine a shadow of the ancient form, yet it is, duly considered, a thing heavenly wide and different: For in the Kings sole power it is to resolve of, and dissolve wars; by him are the *Laws* interpreted; *Letters of grace*, of *Naturality*, and other *Acts* given out; he it is imposeth *Taxes*, from which (by a speciall decree) the *Church* her selfe is not exempt; nay, albeit the *Pope* his own holinesse consent not; from all whose Ecclesiasticall *Censures*, *Fulminations*, and *Anathemas* he esteems himselfe also priviledged, and therefore nominates all *Spirituall persons* to their preferments and dignities: Notwithstanding all this; the handsomer to disguise

gone and apparell these his *Voluntaries*, and render them at the least *specious* procedures of *Justice*, he permits none of his *Edicts* to passe as *authentick* untill the Court of *Parliament* (who is absolutely at his devotion) have first verified them; a favour, this likewise out of complement too, *non tam necessitatis, quam humanitatis*, as a *Civilian* (whose glosse it is) hath wittily termed it. So that as for the *Parliaments* of *France* (besides the name and *Formality*) there is in truth, now no such thing in Nature; which together with their ancient liberties, how deservedly they lost them, may be easily discovered in their frequent *Rebellions*. In a word, he who would perfectly, and without more ado understand by what *Law* and *Rule* the *Kings* of *France* impose on their *Vassals*, may see it *summarily*, yet very legibly ingraven by that forementioned *Cardinal*, upon that excellent

Though under colour of Justice &c

Complement.

Parliament of France a name only.

Artil-

By what
means dis-
composed.

Artillery, which defend his Ma-
jesties *Citadel* at *Haver de grace*
in *Normandy*; where you may
run and read the best of *Tenures*,
as the times are now, 'in this E-
pigraph, — *RATIO ULTI-
MA REGUM*, though for
this slavery, of theirs, they may in
some degree thank our *Country-
men*, whose forces being embowel-
led amongst them, hindred the
Assembling of the *Three Estates*
(as they should have done :)
whereupon the *King* being ne-
cessitated to make his simple *E-
dicts* passe for *Authentick Laws*
(although this power were deli-
vered to him during his wars on-
ly) was the reason why the peo-
ple could never recover or seize
on them since. A Jewel this of too
great value (some think) to bee
intrusted to one person, upon
what pretence or necessity soe-
ver. To the *King* and his im-
mediate Issue, in dignity and
rank, are the *Dukes* and *Peers* of
France.

But

But first, It is to be observed, that the *Princes of the Blood* of this Kingdom possess their Lands and Revenues under the name of *Their E-*
Appanage, and not as absolute *states rever-*
Proprietaries; by which means all *table to the*
 their *Estates* return again to the *Crown by*
Crown by the right of *Reversion*, *Appanage.*
 to the end that the *domaine* abide
 intire; and for other the like
 reasons: the Duke of Sully *Hen-*
ry Richmond, heretofore called
Bais Belle (on which there hangs
 a Story) only excepted.

We will passe over their original, which would be extreme difficult to investigate, and proceed to their Authority, which was *Their Ori-*
 first established by *Hughes Capet* *ginall, Au-*
 and his descendants, who there- *thority.*
 upon obliged them to hold their
 Lands of the *Crown* immediately;
 by which means he also gained
 many that before were disaffected
 to him; as the Earls of *Flanders*,
 the Archbishop of *Rheims*, and
 divers others, who had been at
 the first great opposers of this
Usurper.

and Num-
ber.

Usurper. Now of these *Pees*, there were at the first Twelve only ordained: to wit, six of the *Spirituality*; and as many of the *Temporality*: but at this day their number is become indefinite, depending solely on the pleasure of the King: And these are so named, not for that they pretend to any equality of Dignity with their Sovereign, but their mutual parity in authority one amongst another.

Ecclesiasti-
call,

The Ecclesiasticks were

- 1 *The Archbishop and Duke of Rheims.*
- 2 *The Bishop and Duke de Laon.*
- 3 *The Bp and Duke de Langres.*
- 4 *The Bishop and Earl of Beauvais.*
- 5 *The Bishop and Earl of Noyon.*
- 6 *The Bishop and Comte de Chablons in Champagne.*

The six Temporal were

- Temporall. The Dukes of
- 1 *Bourgogne.*
 - 2 *Normandie.*
 - 3 *Guyenne.*

The

The Compts of } 4 Tholouse.
 } 5 Champagne.
 } 6 Flanders.

Temporal.

These twelve Peers composed likewise in times past the Parliament of France; from whence it is to this day called (as once with us) the Court of Peers.

Now, amongst sundry other *Immunities & Priviledges* which they enjoy; this is none of the least, that they can neither be composed of, nor appealed in judgment, but onely in the Court of Parliament, where they have their Seats as the *Princes of the Blood* are: for before the Institution of that high Tribunal in this Kingdom, the Peers were those which judged all Causes that were ordinarily brought before the King; nor did he manage any thing else either in War or Peace, without their speciall aid and assistance. Moreover, this dignity to some hath been granted for some persons, others onely

Their immunities & priviledges.

Women ca-
pable of
Paireries.

to the *Males descending*, some for
ever; yea, and even *women* them-
selves are alike capable of *Pair-
ries*.

Charges at
the Coronat-
ion.

It would take up too much
time, should I trouble you with
their severall Functions and *Char-
ges* at the *Coronation*, more fit for
an *Herauld*, than an *Historian*,
this onely is observable, that al-
beit there were never so many
Peers present, Those onely who
bore the Titles of the six *Spiri-
tuali*, and six *Temporall* before-
noted, officiate at the Ceremony
for which very purpose, those
who are wanting, or extinct, have
yet their *Representatives*, who
upon this occasion stand for, and
supply their Persons.

The Crown
of France,
and Officers
belonging
to it.

We have spoken now of the
King and prime Nobility; Let
us next survey the *Crown*, and
the prime Officers thereunto be-
longing.

The late Author of the
stat de France hath divided the

into three *Ancients*, three *Modern*,
and three *Domestique*; which
truly, is not an unequall tribo-
nomy: But for that I intend to
perfect what I have already esta-
blished touching the *Court*, I
will commence with the three last
in this partition, and so come to
those which more immediately
appertaine to the *State* after-
wards.

The three Domestick Officers
and Charges are, The Dome-
stique Offi-
cers.

The *Grand Maistre of France*,

The *Grand Chambellan of Fr.*

The *Grand Escuyer of France*.

The office of the *Grand Maistre*
of France, is superintendent of
the Kings house, and hath abso-
lute jurisdiction over all the
domestick officers and Provisions

of his Majesties table; and is a
place of so supreme Authority,
that it is seldome conferred save
upon one of the Princes of the
blood; The Prince of Condé at
present undeservedly inheriting
his fathers charge therein.

Under

The Office
of the Grand
Maistre de
France.

Subordinate
officers to
him.

ceremony at
the death
of the king.

The high
Chamberlain
and officers
subordinate
to him.

Under the *Grand Maître* are many subordinate officers as *Maîtres de Hostel*, *Butlers*, *Carvers*, *Gentlemen waiters* and a whole Regiment of others, which are reduced to a certain number: One thing to be noted, that when the King dyes, the *Grand Maître* breaks his staffe of office, not only an embleme of the dismissal of the rest, but likewise to shew that their charges are only dependant upon the life of the King, albeit afterward, the success for the most part re-establishes them.

Next to the *G. M.* is the *High Chamberlain of France* who hath the supervisall and disposition of all officers of the Kings *Bedchamber* and *Wardrobe*; gives or denyes access to his Majesty; under him there are four chief Gentlemen of the Chamber called, *les quatre premiers gentilshommes de la chambre du Roy*, of these ever lies in the King's

Bedchamber, or very neer to it. Under these are the Masters of the Wardrobe, very lucrative places, to whom are subordinate the Pages, &c.

Lastly, the *Grand Escuyer*, or Master of the Horse, superintendent of the *Premier Escuyer* and other Officers of the stables; his charge it is to march on Horse back before the King, bearing a Sword and Belt, when his Majesty entrencheth into any City; but in those towns which have a *Parliament* he carries (in place thereof) a Casque of blew velvet *semé* with *Flower de Lys*, his own horse caparisoned with the like. He pretends also authority over the Masters of the *Post*, Offices of wonderfull gain; but it is now otherwise settled. The *Master of the Horse* hath likewise under him four and twenty *Pages*, who being the sons of prime Noblemen, are educated in all such exercises as become their quality. The *Grand Escuyer* is at present the *Prince of Harcourt*. The

The Grand Escuyer, his authority.

Premier Es-
cuyer.

The *Premier Escuyer* (whom I have before mentioned) hath particular care of the Kings *little Stable*, where the coach boxes are kept, as also over the Pages, who be no lesse then fifty in number, and the Kings *foot-men*; in effect he commands equally both the great and little stables, so that the charge of the *Premier Escuyer* is not much inferiour to that of *Master of the Horse* himself.

Secretaries
of the Kings
Chamber
and Cabinet.

The King hath likewise four *Secretaries* of his *Chamber*, and three of his *Cabinet*: to speak truth, the multitude of those who stile themselves *Secretaries* to the King, is such, that what with the greatnesse of their number, and inconsiderableness of most of their persons, the dignity of the charge is extremely Eclipsed.

The Biblio-
thecarius,
Controlers
Treasurers,
Marshalls
des Loges.

The Kings *Bibliothecarius*, *Superintendant of the Moveables of the Crown*, *Controlers*, *Treasurers*, *Marshalls des Loges*, &c.

Capitaine de la Porte, who hath under him a guard of fifty Halberds, &c. and of other inferior officers of all sorts under those above five hundred more, though never half of them waiting at a time, and so not constantly eating at Court, as did heretofore most of the officers of the *Kings of England*; the splendor, hospitality, order, and decent magnificence of whose service and attendance in this kind, I am confident no Court of Europe hath ever approach'd or Parallel'd.

Capitaine de la porte, &c.

Order, splendor, & hospitality, of the English Court preferred.

There are likewise of Church men, *The Great Almoner of France*, upon whom depend all of that Robe in the Court; under him is also the *Premier Almoner*, and subordinate to him the severall *Chaplains, Clerks, Confessors*.

The Great Almoner.

Chaplains, Clerks, confessors.

Now before I proceed, something I should speak of those Royal officers which superintend the *Kings pleasures* and ordinary

D

Re-

pleasur^{es} along to
the King's
pleasur^{es} as
Veneur. Fau-
conier &c.

Recreations, such is the *Grand Veneur* and *Fauconier*, the chief *Hunter*, and master of the *Gam*, places not only of very great honour, but also of Command; but a word of them shall suffice, as officers rather of dignity than policy.

Officers be-
longing to
the Queens
in particular
much like
those of the
Kings.

Except
maids of
honour.
Knights, &c

Touchoing the officers belong-
ing in particular to the *Queen*
household, I shall herein like-
wise much contract my self, ha-
ving so amply discoursed of
those which appertain unto the
King; and the rather, in regard
that in most of the *subalternate*,
they so much resemble the one
the other. Yet she hath differ-
ently one *Dame d'Honneur*, of Extra-
ordinaries many more; six *Maid*
of Honour, twelve *Chamber-maid*
called *Filles de la Reine*; a *Knight*
of Honour divers *Masters*, *Cup-
bearers*, & *carvers*; a chief *Groom*,
under whom are a great many *pa-
ges* and *footmen*: also *Secretaries*,
Treasurers, &c. She hath like-
wise her *Grand Aumônier* and

Prévôt de Paris, Ecclesiasticks, and the like, as before was said of the King.

And now having surveyed the Principal officers of the Court, I know you are ready to enquire of me where the Guard of this great Monarch is all this while? I will but only mention the *Grand Prévôt*, at present the *Marschal de Haquecourt*, whom I may not omit, and then I will draw them forth in their several orders.

The Grand
prevost, his
command.

Not only the *Grand Prévôt* is an office which extends it selfe over all the officers (already mentioned) which belong to his Majesties Household, but it hath likewise command absolute for six leagues round about *Paris*, and the Court, every way, which is in truth a very great and noble jurisdiction; besides he is judge of all causes, as well *civills*, as *criminales*, which are incident in Court, and hath for this Respect two *Leutenants*, Fifty *Ar-*

chief of the Kings Guard, and several other officers: To him appertaineth the imposing of the price of Bread, wine, flesh, fish, hay, oates, with sundry other very important priviledges. But behold, here comes the Guard. The first which present themselves are.

Guard of the
King of F.

100 Gentlemen.

Le Cent Gentils hommes, so named from their primary restriction (albeit now double in number) they are called the Kings Company, and wait on him upon all days of Ceremony, and like occasions. Next

Musquetiers
on horseback

The *Musquetiers on Horseback*, which during the *Regency* have been dissolved, but are now in great probability to be reestablished by the King: they were composed of a hundred and fifty horsemen, chosen out from amongst the prime youth of the chiefest families of France, and at the first instituted by Lewis the thirteenth, father of this present King, who was so Physiognomically

Lave Kings
curiosity in
choosing
them.

ully punctual in their Election,
 that it is reported, he would ad-
 mit none who were of a Red
 Coat. These waited on his Ma-
 jesty in Person when ever hee
 went abroad; but after these, and
 the more Ancient farr (who be-
 sides their immediate attendance
 on the Person of the King wee
 are to account as principall and
 solid Forces of the State) are
 the *Guards of French, Scotch,*
and Swisse. Of all whom, be-
 cause those who approach nearest
 to the person of his Majesty are
 the *Scotch* (by an extraordinary
 & special good fortune (it seems)
 ever esteemed faithfull to this
 King and Crown only, for they
 are very near his person, and
 therefore called the *Guard de*
La Manche) I will first begin with
 them. They consist of an hun-
 dred *Archers*, and four *Exempts*,
 who carry a *stasse* or *Trunche-*
on in stead of an *halberd*, with
 the rest, from whence they are
 so denominated: These wait

Scotchguard.
 or guard de
 la Manche.

on the King, and observe him in all motions, joyned also with some other of his Majesties guards, wherof some bear halberds, other Carabines, whether the King be at Table, in Coach, or in his bed-chamber. But this guard of *Scots*, as sympathizing with the calamity of their Nation, is of late years very much impaired, divers French suborned in their places, and many of their privileges lost and infringed, insomuch as it seems at present to retain rather a name than a real Being.

Decay of
the *Scots* at
present.

Guard of
Swisse.

The *Swisse* (for being likewise strangers) I produce in the next place: The guard of this grim Nation, is composed of *Saxan Companies*: but of these the more immediately attending on the Kings constant Guard are only an hundred of them, who all wear the Kings cloath, marching with halberds on their shoulders, drum always beating, and life playing before his Majesty,

by when'ere he Rises but into the
City.

Lastly, the *Guard of French*, Guard of F.
or Regiment
des Guards
called the *Regiment des Gardes*,
with the *Swisse* (composing two
entire Companies) guard all the
arouses and precincts of the
Kings Palace: They are both of
them two Regiments, whereof
each is made up of 30 companies,
consisting of two hundred men
a piece, if full; and Besides these
there is also another *Compagnie de*
Gens d'Armes, who are *Cavalry*,
liers, & serve quarterly on horse
back.

Thus is this great *Monarch*
so environ'd with men of iron
wherever he goes, that one
who should meet him abroad,
though but upon the most or-
dinary occasion, would suppose
them an Army Marching rather
to defend or invade some distres-
sed Province, then the private
guard only of a Princes Person;
so carefull have the Kings of
France ever been to maintain this

True signatures of Absolute Monarchy.

principle of greatnesse and security the very *quintessence* certainly of true Polity, and infallible signatures of an absolute jurisdiction.

Officers of State.

It would now peradventure be thought proper here to speak next of the *Militia*, having already placed the *Guards*, who indeed compose so considerable a part thereof: but because we have now done with the court, we will in the next cast our eyes upon the State, and afterwards secure it.

Ks Revenue

But first a word or two touching the Kings *Revenue*, & *Counsell*; as being the very Nerves and Pillars of all earthly grandeur.

The ordinary *Revenue* of the Kings of *France* is extreamly uncertain, albeit vastly augmented within these late few years, and (besides from the *Domains* formerly engaged to the Crowne) are infinitely increased by the *Domaines Tailles*, and other *con-*
stomes

gomes arising upon all manner of Merchandize; a treasure altogether uncertain, and therefore imposed still as occasion requirerh, and at the pleasure of the King. In order to this, are established severall *grand Officers* of whom in order first.

The *Superintendent of the Finances*, equivalent to our *governor*. Superintendent des Finances, or Cuollumes.
Lord High Treasurer, and officers depending on him. This is he who doth absolutely dispose of the *Farmes* and *Customs* of the King, hath the charge and dispensation of the *Revenues*: In short, it is a place so immensely lucrative, and prodigiously rich, (as being obnoxious to no Account) that there is no man able to make a just estimate of their gaine. Subordinate to him are *four other Intendents*, and as many *Treasurers del' Espargne*, Thresoriers de l'Espargne. whereof one of each wait every moneth, and these are those great *Financiers*, who suck the very bloud of the people; for

D 5 which

which (like the Jewish Publicans their Brethren) they are sufficiently blasphemed by them upon all occasions.

The *Tresoriers de l'Espargne* (which are as Chancellours of the Exchequer have an alternative office; because the number of them is not alwayes certain, places of that vast Revenue, that they are frequently sold at no lesse then a million of livers: for this the *Espargne* is resembled to the Ocean sea, into which, like so many rivets, all the other *Receipts*, generall and particular, of the Kings Revenue, do precipitate themselves, and pay their tribute. From hence all other the *Treasures*, as well ordinary as extraordinary, of the *Wars*, *Generals of the Provinces*, *Maritime Officers*, *Payers of Publick rents*, *Courts*, &c. receive money, and advance for their severall and respective distributions.

There are likewise besides these, the *Treasurers of the Par-*

Casuelles, who are four. These The Treasurers of the parties Casuelles. have charge to receive all monies proceeding from the sale of offices, (which is a gain here openly avowed.) But that which much countervails the inconvenience of their casualties, unto which they are incident, is, that though a man deposit a vast summe, and even exhaust himself for the purchase, they are yet hereditary. Casual Offices hereditary even to Widows, and how. so that even the *Widow* of the defunct, may delegate it to a Deputy, or *Proxy*, the King only reserving a small annual rent, which they call *La Paulette*; in default of which payment, or that the person die without having resigned his office. These *Treasurers* dispose of it to the Kings use and benefit.

The *Controular General des Finances*, his office it is to register all receipts and expences; Comptrollers General of the Customs. but for the present, it remains extinct.

These *Treasurers* are distributed into *Bureaux* & *Generalities* of *Bur-*
caux

Bureaux
and Gene-
ralties.

aux, (so called from a stuff of that name which covereth the table, as our Exchequer) the Generalties are twenty two great Cities, and each of those have their generall and particullar *Receivers*, which last bring the monies of *Tailles* (which certain elected officers impose or asseſſe upon the Parishes) unto the respective *Collectors* who receive it: and these at *Paris* render it into the Office aforesaid.

How the
taxes are
collected.

Kings of
France had
other wayes
of subsisting
till King
Pepin.

The ancient Kings of *France* had other wayes then these to subsist, till *Pepin* and some later Princes of the third Line, so much augmented the *Domaine* of the Crown; as by *Appanages*, which through defect of Issue Male now revert unto it; also by possession of Lands and *Seignories* annexed to the Crown, by *Rents*, *Fiefs*, and other rights proceeding from *Fiefs*. By *Impositions* and dues which are payable by *Edicts*. By a number of Lands who owe faith, and do be-

Impositions
by Edicts.

made to the Prince. By the *Droit d'Anbaine*, by which the goods of strangers dying in France, most inhospitallity escheat to the King; putting (in this respect) no difference between them, and *Bastards* unnaturalized. By the goods vacant through death, &c. By *Annates* or First fruits, Dues from certain *Archbishopricks* and *Bishopricks*, to the number of 30, and more: as likewise innumerable other ways, which here it were too long to reckon up.

Nor can the *Domain* be otherwise alienated, then (as already hath been said) in case of *Appanages*: The other upon some extraordinary and desperate necessity, as in occasion of warre, yet then also but upon condition of *Redemption*, and that they be both first *verified* in Parliament. But these it seems of late, not sufficing the publick expenses of so great a Prince and his many Armies; Those *Tailles* and subsidiary assistances

before

The ordinary
entertainment
of the
Souldiers.

Gentry and
Clergy ex-
empt of Ta-
xes.

Nobility no
advantage
in England.

before mentioned, have been more frequently levied; yet now (since *Charles the seventh*) made the Ordinary Entertainment of the *Souldiers*. Notwithstanding the *Gentry* and *Nobility* (for these terms are coincident and convertible in France) *Churchmen*, and their dependants are exempt from these contributions; an immunity which they enjoy as a distinction, which ours of the same quality in *England* never so much as tasted off; so that (amongst us) if a person be not *Rich*, let him be never so well borne, the *Peasant* is as good a man every whit for any priviledg which the other enjoys above him; through which defect, as there remains little encouragement and reward for ancient virtue or future industry, so must it needs, in time both utterly soun-
dound, and degenerate the race of the most illustrious Families, which have yet hitherto remain-
ed.

The

The *Aide* (which I therefore rather mention because it was instituted upon occasion of King John's imprisonment in England) is now become a perpetual and generall Tax upon all sorts of Commodities whatever, excepting *wheat* only, which is the sole individual in all France, free from any Impost.

The *Aide* is
what and
when insti-
tuted.
All commo-
dities taxa-
ble in
France,
wheat only
exempted.

But that which seasons all the rest, and is indeed a principal ingredient to the Kings Vast revenue, is the *Gabels* upon Salt; which yields this Monarch more than Twenty Millions of *Livres*: for which respect there are divers officers appertaining thereto, some whereof have power to constrain men to buy a certain quantity of the King whether they wil or no; a rigour some interpret extremely approaching the very height of extortion: some particular places yet of the Kingdom, (as towards the Frontiers, and sea towns) are exempted, and have their salt quit of any impost at all.

Gabels up-
on Salt.

Rigour of
exactng.

These

K. of France
 1000's Reve-
 nue 14 mil-
 lions ster-
 ling.

These are in fine the most prin-
 cipall quarries from whence this
Monarch diggs forth and fetches
 his treasure and revenue, which
 those who are yet thought to
 have made a favourable *Audite*,
 do not blush to affirm, ammounts
 unto more then an hundred and
 forty Millions of *Livers*, which
 is about fourteen Millions of
 our money: nay some, that in *Car-*
dinall Richlieu's time, it was
 brought to an hundred and fifty:
 which portentous and monstrous
 Treasure, together with the man-
 nagement and manner of ex-
 acting it, might (as some think)
 serve a little to extenuate that
 which was yet thought a propor-
 tion too large for a most excel-
 lent prince, whose whole Reve-
 nue could never yet be stretched
 to above one Million sterling in
 all, *viis et modis*. Which is some
 thirteen short of that, which the
Kings of France at present en-
 joy.

Now ere we define the more
 distinct,

distinct *Ministers of State*, we will first speak severally of the ^{supream} *Councils* of ^{France.} which are two.

The chief is called the *secret* or (more frequently) *le Conseil d'en* ^{Le Conseil} ^{d'en hault,} ^{of this coun-} ^{sel are the} ^{Duke of Or-} ^{leans, Prince} ^{of Condé,} ^{The Ca di-} ^{nall and 4} ^{princi all} ^{Secretaries of} ^{State.} *hault*, that is, (after our old English stile) the *Cabinet Counsel*; because it is commonly held in the *Kings Bedchamber*: for which respect you may reasonably imagine it to be composed but of few, and those the prime and most illustrious persons of charge and title in the Kingdom: so that (according to the nature of affaires) it is sometimes reduced unto two or three only: but upon intelligences and transactions of State, as those which concern matter of *warr*, *foreign Alliances*, &c. Then there is a fuller number of other *Ministers* required to be present.

The other *Conseil* is termed *le* ^{The conseil} ^{of State.} *Conseil d'Etat & privé* where, when the King himself sits not, the *Precedency* is given to the first *Prince of the Blood* then present, and

and in default of their absence, to the *Chancelier*, who, together with the *Tresorer* or *Superintendent*, hath principal authority in all those Courts I have, or shall speak of; and this Court (besides the above named who are chief) is composed of many *Counsellours of State*, who are all persons of great merit, and commonly such as have given signal testimonies of their abilities and address by their long services, as *Ambassadors* and *Orators* to foreign Princes; or officers in other jurisdictions and *Counsels*; also to this Court appertaine four *Secretaries* that serve quarterly; eighteen *Maistres de Requests*, who (according to the nature of the affaire) with the *Intendants*, make the *Reports*, having first resolved the businesse amongst themselves, according to which the *Arrest* is sometimes given. In this *Council* passe all matters belonging either to *War* or *Peace*,

Peace, and all other concern-
ments of the Crown whatever, for
here they determine *definitively*,
which judgment so passed, is ter-
med an *Arrest* or *Act of Council*;
howbeit, in causes of high con-
sequence they are often revoked
both from this *Tribunall* (yea,
and the *Parliament* it self also)
into the *Conseil d'en-haut* al-
though a Council but of a later
institution. Branches from this
are also the Council of the *Fi-
nances* or *Customs*, called the
Council of direction; where all
the affairs of the *Exchequer* are
disposed: likewise the *Chancelor*
holdeth another Council, called
the *Council des parties*, wherein
the *Processes* of particular parties
and *Recusations* have their pro-
per hearing; and to this also
belong quarterly *Secretaries* a-
part.
Now the manner of proceed-
ing in these *Courts* goes according
to the disposition of the severall
affairs, by the *Reports* made rea-
dy,

The Coun-
sell of di-
rection.

The Coun-
sell of Par-
ties.

The manner
of proceed-
ing in these
Courts.

dy, reformed and first signed, which is by them, then by the Chancellor if it be at the Council of parties; if at the Finances, by the Duke of Orleans, Monsieur the Prince, and Superintendents, who deliver them to the Greffier or Clerk, by whom they are to be allowed, that is paraphrased in Parchment, to which they subjoine a commission which is sealed by the Chancellor, if they are to be immediately executed. Other Arrests and Acts of Council are executed by an usher or Sergeant of the Council, who wear a chaine of Gold about his neck, with a Medall pendent, where in there is impressed the Kings picture.

Grand Council.

There is likewise another Council, called the Grand conseil, in which also the Chancellor presides virtually, though seldom present in person; and this is composed of four Presidents, and a hundred and fifty Counsellors, who serve by Semesters

and

and this court is chiefly, and indeed only conversant in affaires Ecclesiastical, such as concerne Bishopricks, Priories, Hospitals, &c. collation and presentation to Benefices in the jurisdiction either of King, or Pope within this Realme; and therefore here is the Kings Advocate, and proctor Generall continually attending.

And now (returning to our former division) we may remember that the more ancient officers of the Crown were likewise three:

viz. The Conestable, the Marechal, and the Chancellor: I shall forbear a while to speak much of the two first, till I come to treat particularly concerning matters of war: we are now in affaires of State and Justice, wherein this last in our division as chiefe and sovereign; his office is to dispatch and modifie all the Graces and gifts of the King, is keeper of the Great Seale, with which hee confirms all the Ordinances, Edicts,

Officers of
State & Justice.
Chancelour
of France.

Days and
manner of
Sealing.

all the *deliberations* and *placets* of his Majesty: for which respect he hath in *Parliament* his seat on the left hand of the King, when he is there present. But there are no dayes properly design'd for *sealing*, that wholly depending upon the will of the *Chancellor*. The manner thereof is this: The *chancellor* sits in the middle of a large Table, upon which is placed a *cabinet* or *coffer* (wherein there is locked all the publick *seals* of France) the key of which he carries about his neck: at the End of this Table are two *Masters of Requests*, with whom he may advise in case the *affaire* require it; and over against the *Chancellor* one of the four *Referendaries* of France who reads all the *Letters*, *Arrests*, and other *expeditions*, which if approved, are accommodated with *Yellow wax* fitting and ready for the *seale*, and so put up into a box to be controul'd by the *Kings Secretaries*, who must first allow

Now and Paragraph them; and then they are sealed: For Expédition of highest consequence, as *Traictes, Edicts, Abolitions, &c.* in green wax: but the seals of Dauphins are in red: Moreover the character of the *Chancelor* is esteemed so sacred & inviolable, that it remains altogether indelebile but by death onely; yet notwithstanding upon decadency, or disgrace with the King, there is commonly one called *Guard des Sceaux*, who executeth his charge: hath also the same authority; for the *Seals* may be taken away at his Majesties pleasure, but not the *Chancellorship*, which as is never to dye, but with his person, so may he not put on Mourning for the King himself, his Father or Mother if any of them decease, as being insensible of all other Relations; and considerations besides the sole interest of the People: his habite is a robe of black Velvet doubled, or lined with Crimson plush: before

Guard des
Sceaux.

Secretaries
of State.

fore him goe two *Sacrijdants* with chains of Gold, who bear 2 rich *maces* of gold on their shoulde.

The *Secretaries of State* and commands of the King are few in number; whose functions, for being different, deserve to be mentioned in the next place. One of these Secretaries is for Expeditions altogether *forraign*: one for affaires *Ecclesiasticall* and benefices; a third for matters only appertaining to the *Kings house* and the fourth, serves for affairs and concernements of *war*; and thus have they the whole Kingdom so *cantoniz'd* betwixt them, that upon all particular Emergences of the *Provinces*, every one knows his division. In *Court* and presence of the King, they waite alternatively by *Months*; for he uses them likewise in affaires of the *cabinet*, which for not being matter of State, hee will not have made known or divulged.

Lastly,

Lastly, The *Masters of Requests* (of whom there are
 at present no less than seven-
 ty) are as it were *Assessors* of
 the *Chancellor*, and compose
 the body of the Court of *Parli-
 aments* (of which we shall short-
 ly speak) and have their Seats
 next to the *Counsellors*, but not
 exceeding four at a time. In
 absence of the *Presidents*, they
 preside also in many other *Judi-
 cial*, and *Quintillar*: these
 make report and sign the *Request
 of Justice*, and sometimes the af-
 faires of the *Exchequer*: they
 are likewise many times chosen
 for *Extraordinary Embassades*, as
 well as *Commissioners* for his Ma-
 jesty in the Cities and Provinces,
 where they judge and determine
 upon all affairs of the Crowne
 with most absolute power and
 authority. The rest of the *Officers*
 more immediately belonging
 to the Kings Revenue I have
 touch'd at large already. I

E come.

Parliament
of France.

come now to the *Parliament of France*, of whom there hath hitherto been so much talke.

Parliament
of France,

The *Justice of France* (in the equal dispensation whereof should be the glory and diadem of a Prince in Peace, as is the multitude of people his visible strength in warr) is doubtlesse very good, but wonderfully ill executed; which happeneth through the fardid corruption of such as disperse it for money and favour, without which there is nothing to be hoped for in this *Kingdom*; and good reason there should bee some gaine made of that which the dividers thereof buy so dear, purchasing their places and offices at such excessive charges, that they are constrained to sell their *Vertue* to him who bidds most for it. But this is not (I suppose) the only *Monopoly* which drives that trade.

by whom e-
stab. shod.

Philip the Fair established the

the *Parliament of Paris*; for before it was *Ambulatory*, and only observed the motion of the King) whither both *Ecclesiasticks* and *seculars* repaired. As it is now constituted, it is composed of *Five houses* or chambers : *La Grand Chambre* hath twenty five *Counsellors*, who take cognizance of affairs of highest Consequence : and of five *Chambres des Enquests*, to either of which there is also about the same number of *Counsellors* : likewise two other Chambers, one whereof is called *La Tournelle*, wherein are pleaded only matters *Criminal*, composed of two *Counsellors* of the *Grand Chambre*, and of two of every *Chambre des Enquests*. The *Chambre del'Edit* that is of the *Edict of Nantz*, which only toucheth the affairs of the *Protestants*, and is also composed of two *Counsellors*, out of each of the six other Chambers, who are nominated every second year by the

*La grand
chambre des
Enquests.*

*La Tour-
nella*

De l'Edit Chancellor and the Protestant
for the Pro deputy General.
testants. In the great Chambre presi-
President an deth the President au Mortier,
Mortier. because here who presenteth the ancient Dukes
standeth a cup made in and Peers: these presidents are
fashion of a Counsellors of State the first
mortier over the mantling
of the Arms in lieu of a
wreath and helmet.

Presidents,
Conseillers,
Advocats &
Procureurs.

To all the other Chambers
of Parliament there are like-
wise Presidents: viz. two at the
Tournelle, and one at the Edict.
To each Chambre des Enquestes
are two, but these last for being
only commissioned Counsellors,
have no places as presidents in full
assemblies of Parliament. Be-
sides presidents and Counsellors;
there is moreover a Procureur,
and two Advocates General, who
intervene in all Causes which con-
cern either the King or State.

be-

besides an Infinity of other *Advocates* who are rather to count by multitudes then numbers established, only the *proctors* have of late years been reduced to about 600.

There is likewise a *Greffier en chef*, or clerk of the parliament, one of the most lucrative charges of France, as esteemed to be no lesse worth then an 100 Crowns of Gold a day: This office having now successively remained in the family of *Monsieur du Tillet* neer three hundred years, we could not passe his name in silence; Lastly, of *Commisses*, *Searjeants*, *Ushers*, and under officers there are in very great numbers.

Clerk of the parliament.

All the Officers of Parliament wear a long *Gown*, and square cap, but the *Presidents au Mortier* and *Counsellours*, upon solemn occasions, put on Robes of *scarlet*, which are trimmed with black velvet.

Robes of the Officers of Parliament.

The Solemne Arrests or Acts
E 3 of

Arrests of *of Parliament* are pronounced
Parl. when four times the year : viz. on
pronounced. *Christmas Eves eve*, on the *Tues-*
day before Easter, on *Whisfun*
Eves eve, and the seventh day of
Sept. till which, from the mor-
 row after the feast of *St Martin*
it continues : but the *Parliament*
 doth not open untill such time as
 the King renews their Commis-
 sion.

Cities be-
 sides Paris,
 that have
 parliaments

There are besides *Paris*, these
 nine Cities which have Parlia-
 ments,

1 *Touloufe.*

2 *Rouen.*

3 *Bordeaux.*

4 *Dijon.*

5 *Grenoble.*

6 *Aix.*

7 *Rheims.*

8 *Paris.*

9 *Metz.*

In what
 they differ
 from the
 Par. of Paris.

Whose Constitution and
 Composition are alike to that
 of *Paris*, except that of *Metz*
 and

and *Rouen*, whose Presidents and Counsellors of late serve severally; that is half during one six months, and halfe the other: some of the Parliaments also have no chamber of *Edict*, as *Rheims*, and *Dijon*, so that the Protestants of those parts repaire to *Paris* to plead; and in *Toulouse*, *Bordeaux*, and *Grenoble*, for default thereof, those of the Religion have established them Chambers *Mixtes*, that is, of equal numbers of *Romanists*; nor have the other Parliaments so many chambers of *Enquists*, as not (in truth) needing them.

Likewise this Prerogative hath the Parliament of *Paris*, that is hath the sole honour to be called the *Conseil of Peers*; for here only can they of right be judged: yet this priviledge was not able to protect them, at what time the late great Cardinal de *Richlieu* made bold to infringe it, when it served to his purpose.

How the
Advocates
and proctors
plead.

In all these Parliaments afore-
said the *Advocates* plead covered,
but the *Proctors* both bareheaded
and kneeling: sited one ad iudicium.

Moreover, the businesse of the
Parliament of Paris, besides the
verifying of the Kings *Edicts*,
Ordinances, and letters *Patentes*
(as hath been already touched)
is the dispensing of all other Jus-
tice *Civill* and *Criminal*: here
the *Appanages* of the crown are
regulated, the erection of new
dignities, *Modification* of the
Pope's *Legats*, *Commissions*, pro-
cedures into *Banishment*, *Let-
ters of naturality*, *Pardons* and
the like supream transactions of
State have their genuine and na-
turall source.

Bishops and
ecclesiasticks
in Parli-
ament have
place, no de-
liberative
Voice, ex-
cept B. of
Paris, and
abbot of St.
Denys.

The *Bishops* in Parlia-
ment have right of place, but
no deliberative Voice: except
only the *Archbishop* of *Pa-
ris*, and *Abbot* of *Saint Den-
ys*. Thus much shall suffice to
have been spoken touching the
Parliaments.

The

The *Chamber of comptes* (which Chamber of comptes, its high authority and number, comes next in order) is a jurisdiction and Court apart, that concernes & judges the accompt of all the *Receivers*, *Treasurers* and *officers* paid into, or received out of the Kings *Exchequers*, for which cause all their *Letters*, *Edicts*, *Ordinances*, &c. are read, registred, and verified. Here it is that homage for *Feifs* moving from the *Crown* are acknowledged. It hath belonging to it ten *Presidents*, *Monsieur Nicolas*; who is the first (having from Father to Son conserved this charge neer two hundred years in his Family) hath refused for his charge 1400000 *Livers*, which the late *D'Emery* offered him for it. To it also appertaineth seventy *Maijres des comptes*, eighty *Auditors*: in fine, it is a Court of that high Authority, that it hath sometimes stood even in competition with the Parliament itself. There are eight of these

*Chambres
des Requestes
du Palais.*

in France. Besides this Court, there are likewise the two *Chambres des Requestes du Palais*, where is pleaded the Priviledg of the *Royall offices*, and household; and therefore they consist of Counsellors of *parliament*, &c.

*Cour des
Monnoyes.*

The *Cour des Monnoyes* composed of three *Presidents*, twenty four *Conseillers*; these concerne the *Mint* in all particulars.

Mint.

*Admiralty
and Table
de Marbre.*

Also the Admiralty, called the *Table de Marbre* instituted for *Maritime affaires*. And lastly,

*Waters and
Forrests.*

Les Eaux & Forrests, with some other inferior courts, whereof we have already sufficiently spoken elsewhere.

And so I am come out of *Westminster-hall* to the other two of our three ancient Officers, viz. the *Connestable* and *Mareschall* of France, being the last of our division and will naturally lead us to discourse

discourse something of the *Militia* which is the sword of the state

1. The *Connestable*, albeit an Officer, to a greater then which the King himself can promote no subject; yet for that it is not a charge which is always in being, but upon extraordinary Emergencies and grand occasions, will be needlesse to say more of it, then that this Office holdeth

Military officers, and first the Connestable of F.

ranke immediately after the Princes of the blood; and in Parliament it is before the Dukes and Peers. The *Connestable* therefore is chief, superiour, and Generalissimo over the Armies of France;

The Duc of Orleans is as it were Connestable now.

for which respect he hath his jurisdiction in the Court of the *Ta-ble de Marbre*; but at this day the *Mareschals* supplying this high office (although properly speaking, but his *Lieutenants*) come next to be spoken of.

Mareschals de Fr.

2. The *Mareschals de France*, or rather, so many Generals, are the onely persons of Enterprise and Action.

Action in their Armies, both at home and abroad; being commonly men who are elevated to those *Charges*, purely by their own Valour and Demerits, so that as their number is indeterminate, so there is no Souldier, of what condition soever, but may possibly by his vertue aspire to this preferment. I find even now, that their Jurisdiction did much resemble that of the *Connestables*; nor can they be devested of this honour during their lives. Before these *Mareschals* are determined all matters of private quarrels and defies incident to the Noblesse; for which cause they have their *Provosts* or *Lieutenants* in all the greatest Cities of the Kingdom. They bear in their *Archievements* a *Franchron* Salter, wise azure, seeded with *Flower de lyces* or.

Finally, (which is the last part of our division) the three Modern Offices of the Crown, viz.

1. The *Admiral of the French*

2. The

3. The

2. *Le Colonel de l'Infanterie* and
 3. *Le Grand Maître de l'Ar-*
illerie.

In the first place the *Admiral*,
 (who holds likewise his place du-
 ring life) is *Generall* of all the
King's forces by sea, and under
 him are all the *Marine jurisdictions*.
 The charge hath in times
 past been divided unto more,
 both *Guyenne* and *Provence* ha-
 ving enjoyed theirs apart: but
 the defunct *Cardinall de Richlieu*
 (who hath left this high office to
 his *Nephew*) united them all un-
 der one: his jurisdiction also is at
 the *Table de Marine*, where (for
 being but subalternate judges)
 their places in *Parliament* is at
 the lower end. The charge is
 now in the person of the *Queen*
Regent, some say, the *Duke of*
Vendôme: likewise the *General*
des Galeres hath here his seat,
 which is a place of very notable
 gain and Authority on the
 coast of the *Mediterranean Sea*,
 where his *Majesty's Gallies* do
 both

Admirall.

Colonel
of the
InfantryGrand
Master
of the
ArtilleryGeneral
des
Galeries

Colonel of both harbour and ride.
the Infantry - Next is the Colonell of the

French Infantry, which is a charge one of the most considerable in all respects of France, especially for Gain, receiving eight sols every Muster for every souldien head his authority being generally over all the *French-foot* and hath for his *Lieutenant Colonel* the *Maistrat de Camp* under his name issue all *Ordonnances of War*.

Masters of
the Camp.

Colonel
General
des Suisses.

There is likewise a Colonel *General des Suisses*, who hath jurisdiction over all those *Mercenaries*, as well those of the *Kings Guard*, as those who serve in the field and in the *Garison*; of which there are constantly about eight thousand in this *Dominion*.

Grand Mai.
Arc de l'Ar-
tille. &c.

Last of all, the *Grand Maistre de l'Artille*, which is a charge equal with a *Marshall of France* under his tuition and conduct is the *Arsenal of Paris*, all the *Cannon* and *Ammunition* of warre in the *Kingdome*, for which cause he hath

255 12 300 3
400 12 0

hath his *Lieutenants*, *Captains*, and other officers belonging to the *Carriages* in great number: besides all this, he hath the management of *five millions* of *Livers*, together with the arbitrary disposition of above eight hundred *Officers*; of all which he is obliged to no particular account.

There is likewise the *Grand Priour de France*, which for being a quality of high reputation is not to be pretermitted. The *Master-ship* of the *Religion* and Order of *Malta* for the French being not lesse worth then 10000 pounds yearly: his ordinary *Residence* is at the *Temple*, a quarter in the town of *Paris* as is that of ours in *London* so called.

Grand pri-
our de France
M^r. of the
Religion of
Malta.

The *Council of War* is commonly held in the *Palace* of the *Duke of Orleans*, as being *Lieutenant General* of all the Kings *Forces*, and therefore little remote (as hath been said) from the dignity and charge of high *Constable*.

Coun^{cil} of
War.

nestable. Thus we have done with the *Courts and Officers of France*; now we will take a Prospect of the *Forces*.

Constant ar-
mies of Fr.

The King of France hath commonly four Armies in field: viz. that of *Flanders*, of *Germanie*, of *Italy*, and that of *Catalogna*; wherein the King, Queen, Monsieur, the Duke of Anjou, the Duke of Orleans, Princes of the Blood, and Mareschals of France have their severall and individuall Companies, whose Lieutenants enjoy many singular precedencies above other Officers of the Armies: All these consist of well armed horse.

Light horse
and other
Forces under
continual
pay.

The light horse are at present commanded by the Master of the Camp. The King hath commonly under pay about a hundred and forty Cornets of cavalry distributed into 56 Regiments, besides of Strangers twelve: Of Infantry the King hath two hundred and ten, whereof some Regiments have

have thirty Companies; and every company payed for eight men effective. Moreover, his Majesty hath divers Regiments of Strangers, whereof enough hath been said in the beginning.

The Armada Naval may be composed of about twenty men of

Armada
Naval.

War, and as many Gallies; I have shewed you before how these Forces are payed, and therefore we will proceed to the Governours of the Provinces, being likewise Men of

The Governours of Provinces have their Commissions (which are simple and depending on

Governours
of provinces,
cities and
forts.

the pleasure of the King), verified in Parliament, where they have their seats next after the premier presidents; they are in some degree equivalent to our Justices of the Peace, but exercise a much more vigorous power, which is yet restrained to matters of Arms; for in other justice they

they meddle not at all. So likewise the *Governors of Cities, Fortresses, and places of strength*, all which are chosen of persons of Blood, Valour and merit. But before we altogether quit the subject of Armes, it will not be impertinent to say something here of the order of *Knighthood in France*.

Orders of
Chevalrie
in France.

I shall not much amuse you with those orders which are so far antiquated, that even the heralds themselves can scarcely remember any certain accounts. Such is that which is named *de la Genette*, Instituted by *Charles Martel*, or the Order *de l'Estu* by King *John*, the Order of the *Croissant*, *Pere Esprit*, nor much concerning the order of *Saint Michael* itself, although not many ages since first instituted, and for a long while, the principal Order in the Kingdom, composed but of 36, because (as the manner of this Nation is to be as soon weary of their new inventions, as children are of Rattles) they

Instituted
1469 by
Lewis the
eleventh.

they begin to have this Order al-
ready in contempt, albeit the Ordre de S.
Michael's
chain and pendent badg be com-
monly reserved in the *Coat Ar-*
moirs, together with that which
is now in Vogue, and next ensues.

L'Ordre du S. Esprit was in-
stituted on *new years Day*, Anno
1579, by *Henry the third*, and ho-
noured with that name, because
he was both born, and afterwards
elected *King of Polonia* on
Whitsunday: This Prince restrai-
ned the number also to thirty six;
but that is likewise as indefinite
as it pleases the King: how-
ever, it remains yet the Order
of greatest esteem, and therefore
let us look a while upon the Cere-
monies of the *Inauguration*.

The day of their *Reception* they
appear all in *cloath of silver*, their
cloaks (especially the capes) cut a la
antique, of black velvet; which they
put off and change, to receive on
them a robe of *green Velvet* full of
embroydred tongues of fire: then re-
maining on their knees, the King
takes

hands between the palmes of his own, striking them lightly upon the shoulder, and kisses their Cheeke.

Order.

Ordinarily they wear a Flame, or Orange colour Crosse of velvet upon the left side of their cloakes, in the midst whereof is embossed a *dove* of silver, and about it a glory of Rayes, like that which our Knights of the Garter in England do wear, as having first assumed that mode from the *French*, albeit for Antiquity of the *Order*, ours stands much before it.

About their bodies likewise they wear a *blew ribbon* which of late they have *watered*, and at the end of that a *Crosse of Gold* in the midst whereof there is ennailed a *White Dove*: and this is all which I finde observable.

State Hierarchical.

We have been hitherto very silent of the *State Ecclesiastick* in particular, which although it come last in *Order*, yet was it one

of

of the first in mine *intention*, as
 consisting of *Persons*, who besides
 their qualities both for *Extraction*
 and *Letters*, possesse alone one
 third part of the total Revenue of
France.

The *ArchBishops* of this king-
 dom are in number fifteen, where-
 of he of *Lyons* is the *Primate* and
Metropolitan, and some of these
 be *Peers*. *Bishopricks*, two hundred
 and one.

Archbishops
 & Bishops.

Of this *Hierarchy* is composed
 the *Eglise Gallicane*, which by the
concordats made with the *Pope*,
 hath sundry rights and priviled-
 ges extraordinary, which for that
 they are not much incident to our
 discourse, we will purposely o-
 mit, and content our selves with
 what hath been briefly spoken.

L. Eglise
 Gallicane.

Having thus, as I was able,
 finished my *designe* and your re-
 quest, with what succinctnesse
 & perspicuity I might (for herein
 I am obliged to some *Relations*,
 more discourses, and a little expe-
 rience)

rience) I will make bold (the better to let you understand the full nature of things as they subsist and are govern'd at present) to resume the *Argument*, & deliver you the best and more solid opinions of men concerning the particulars already spoken of.

Present Government of France.

The *Government of France* doth at present rather totter than stand upon the late great *Cardinals* substruction; the *Queen*

Regent having ever since his decease continued in the principal ministry of State affairs: Her favourite *Mazarini*, a person of

Card. Mazarini.

(to speak with the world) far greater fortune, than either extraction or virtue; however he hath steered this great vessel of Monarchy a long time, and that amidst so many stormes, and in such foul weather, as whether his craft or courage exceeds it is not yet decided: certaine it is, that as he hath longer held it, then by some wise men it was judg'd he could, so some late ac-

om

of his (interpreted to have
 been ingratefull enough) make
 over daily confident of his absolute
 mine: and in truth, he doth play
 a hazardous game at present,
 that as the hand is universally
 turned, it were great odds to lay
 on Confusions side, so prodigious
 a fatality now threatening *Princes*,
 that if *France* compose not sudden
 these calamities I am confident,
 will epidemically visit *Europe* for a
 time. And why it should be that
 an active *Nation* have endured
 so many *Strangers* to governe
 them thus in cheif, I am much
 to seek for a reason, when I stea-
 dily behold the universal prompt-
 ness of the *Noblesse*, unlesse
 peradventure to avoid emulation
 at *Court* 'twixt so many greater
 Princes and Subjects, as might
 else pretend to highest Authority,
 they rather submit themselves to
 the meanest *Alien*. But this by
 way of glosse and *species*, not o-
 pinion. The subtile have e-
 ver been too hard for the simple:
 and

Government
 by strangers
 incident to
 this monar-
 chie.

and though the law deny women
succession to the Crown, yet the
Fate of the kingdom, and ad-
dresses of the sex, furnish'd them
a title which hath fully recompen-
sed for that injury.

Noblesse of
France, and
Gentry the
same thing.

The Noblesse of France com-
prehend the Gentry under one
and the same common term; nor
indeed is there in any Kingdom
(save ours only) that severe di-
stinction of *Minors* and *Ma-
jors* amongst the Nobility;
a difference which some think ne-
ther suits with true policy or ju-
stice. But quitting this decision
to whom it belongs, we are (as I
said) in this Dominion to take
the Noblesse (that is the Gentry)
for the sole visible body; and
consequently the *Plebeians* of a
far more vile, and naturally sta-
vish genius, then they really are
in any part of *Christendome*, be-
sides; which meannesse of spirit I
easily conjecture to have been
long since contracted from the o-
ver severity and liberty of their
super-

Plebeians,
their misery.

Sup-
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Con-
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Superiors ; their incomparable paucity, and excessive oppression.

Other *immunities*, besides the fore rehearsed, which the *Nobles* enjoy in *France*, is, that with their *Pensions* and *Governments*, they are likewise exempted from all *Contributions* upon their own *domains* ; which doth so far oblige them to their *Prince*, that there are none which render him such real and considerable service, upon all urgent and brisk occasions, as do the *Gentry* ; especially, at what time the *Ban* and *Arrier-Ban* be summoned to their several assignments : And to this Heroique life of the *Field*, they are generally addicted, as being there to excellently disciplined from their very *Cradles* ; by which means, certainly they become the best esteemed, and most adroit *Cavalry of Europe* ; nor doth this early education of them abroad, prejudice the State at home ; for being kept, and dissevered from projecting of commotion in the

Service the Nobility of France yield their Prince. Ban and Arrier-Ban.

Chevalry, their general profession.

F Country,

Rebellions
for the most
part impro-
sperous in
France; and
why?

Country their *Rebellions* have been
for the most part, though fre-
quent, yet improsperous, so con-
siderable a party ever remaining
with the *Prince*, whose personal
presence with them in the *Field*,
gives an extraordinary life, and
loyalty to their Actions.

Commons,
their liti-
gious nature
in France.

As touching the *Plebeians* or
Roturiers of France; truly I
stern them for the most misera-
ble object, that one may likely
behold upon the face of the
Earth; especially, those which
live towards the *Frontiers*, so im-
measurably exhausted by *Taxa-
tions*, *Gabels*, *Impositions*, *Spoils*,
and *Contributions*, unto which
they are generally obnoxious:
The rest of the two first *Estates*,
together with all their dependants,
living onely upon their *Revenues*,
remain free and exempt; but that
which addes not a little to their
Ruine, is (for all this) their extraor-
dinary *litigious nature*, and *vindi-
cative disposition*, especially those
of *Normandy*, *Bretagne*, *Gascogne*,
and

and *Procurers*; so that, what with the premises, delay of their *Process*, and the abominable corruption of *Justices*, this rank of people seldom or never arrive to any considerable Fortune or Competency, by their own wit or industry, as do so many of our *Yeomen* and *Farmers* in *England*. By these means also, their spirits becoming so abjectly debased, they are not able to afford their *Prince* that ready service in matter of *Arms*, as indeed their multitudes and necessities, both promise and require: To supply which defect, in all *Expeditions* of *Consequence*, the *King* makes use of the *Cassidors* and *Biscarans*; who being bred about the *Confines* and *Frontiers* of *Spain*, are much the better *Soldiers*, and esteemed for the best *Infantry* of *France*; as also of the *Dutch*, *Scotch*, *Irish*, *Italian*, and others, in whom, together with the *Suisse* (a most principal Ingredient) consisteth their greatest *Foot* confidence; the

Farmers in
England.

Auxiliaries
in the
French As-
sises.

more considerable part, whereof being *mercenary Auxiliaries*; and very frequently left in great arrears, might peradventure administer to *Politicians* sufficient cause of suspicion and discourse; but the event having hitherto, for many ages past, been nothing prejudicial, takes away any farther occasion of dispute.

Mechanicks of France.

Merchants.

The *People of Trade* and *Mechanicks*, are nothing so contemptible as the *common sort*, of whom we have spoken a little; many of them living very decently and handsomely in their houses, especially the better sort of *Merchants*, who are better furnished than the rest; howbeit, in competition with our *Country-men* of the same *quality*, to be esteemed, in truth, but as mean *Mountebanks*, and inconsiderable *Pedlers*. Those of greatest Wealth and Commerce, being some crafty *Italian* or *Portugues*, who (during the time of the late, and present *Cardinal*) have amassed very con-

considerable Estates, and great Riches And here we may properly observe, That no Gentleman will in France binde his youngest son to any Trade or *Mechanique Calling* whatever, under that of a *Military life*, as esteeming every *Apprentisage* and subjection, a stain and diminution to the Honor and Dignity of his *Family*; the like also, they for the most part observe in their *Marriages* and *Alliances*: but herein the *German* is most religious.

Apprentisage considered a diminution of honor in France.

The Nobility and Gentry of this Kingdom differ much from the garb of living in *England*; both within, (and till of late) without doors: They have many of them vast estates, either in Lands or Offices; the Revenues whereof they chuse rather to spend at *Paris*, and other great Cities, in a specious *Retinue* of *Coaches*, *Pages*, and *Laquaies*, then suffer themselves to be eaten up at home in the country in the likeness of *Beef* and *Mustard*, among their

Noilities Garbe of living in France.

Corporati-
ons.

Magnifi-
cence of the
Nobility &
Gentry.

unthankful Neighbours! This af-
fection of theirs to reside for the
most part in the chief Towns of
the Kingdom is the reason why
the Corporations are little confi-
derable, as not daring to be brew-
ing and hatching such Factions,
as where the Gentry and civiller
sort of Mankind are universally
given to solitary and inactive
lives in the country. Besides,
the Gentlemen are generally gi-
ven to those laudable Magnificen-
cies of Building, and furnishing
their Palaces with the most pre-
cious Moveables, much of the
luxury and excess of Italy, being
now far entred amongst them, as
may well serve to exemplifie, when
in the Dutchess of Chaulnes her
Palace neer the Place Royale in
Paris, the pennaces, or tufts of
plumes belonging to one of her
beds onely, is estimated worth
fourteen thousand livres, which
amounts to neer a thousand pounds
sterling of our money.

Every great Person who builds
here

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here, however qualified with *intellectuals*, pretends to his *Elaboratory* and *Library*: for the furnishing of which last, he doth not much amuse himself in the particular elections of either *Authors* or *Impressions*; but having erected his cases and measured them, accords with a *Stationer* to furnish him with so many gilded *Folios*, so many *yard of Quartos*, and *octavo's* by the great, till his *Bibliothèque* be full of Volumes. And yet some of them, both have excellent books, and are very polite *Scholars*: but the *Noblesse* do not naturally so addict themselves to studie, as the *Gown-men* do; accounting it a life so contemplative, and below their spirits, that no *Gentlemen's* necessity whatsoever shall easily engage him to seek any support, either by *Physick* or *Law*: both which *Professions* are (as in truth they highly merit) in very laudable esteem and reputation amongst us in *England*.

Orbit pretends to learning.

Physick and Law despised by the Nobility of France.

State Eccle-
siastick of
France.

Protestants.

Roman Ca-
tholicks of
France, how
they differ
from others
of the same
Religion.

Protestants,
how eclips-
ed & weak-
ned of late.

The *State Ecclesiastick* (com-
prehending that of the *Religion*)
is of two sorts; the greater part
whereof being *Pontificians*, and
the *Protestants*, commonly called
those of the *Religion*, (and by
them with this adjunct, *Prendue
Reformée*) who exercise the Do-
ctrine and Discipline of *Gene-
va*.

The *Roman Catholicks* of
France are nothing so precise, se-
cret, and *bigotish* as are either the
Recusants of *England*, *Spain*, or
Italy; but are for the most part
an *indifferent sort of Christians*, na-
turally not so superstitious and
devout, nor in such *Vassallage* to
his *Holiness*, as in other parts of
Europe, where the same opinions
are professed; which *indifferency*,
whether I may approve of, or
condemn, I need not declare
here.

As for the poor *Protestants*, they
are now so inconsiderable, since
the late Successes of the *Cardinal
Richlieu*, and especially our Na-
tions

signs reproach, and their misfortune at *La Rochelle*; that for the present they possess no one place of strength, or any other singular immunity above others, as being defeated of all *Eminent Persons*, either of *Birth* or *Charge*, who might be able to defend or Counsel them at need; the Court having now rendred most of them *Proselytes*, by *Preferments* or *Interests*, or other effectual means: Howbeit, such as remain (and of which too there are likewise a very considerable body) are permitted peaceably to enjoy their *Consciences*, upon renovation of the late *Edict of Pacification*; and are undoubtedly; in case of any considerable *Rebellion*, capable to form a very ballancing and pondrous party; but with nothing that *front* and confidence which within these *twenty years* past, they might have done; when they durst even beard the *King*, and protect such as retired to them, from his displeasure, in

The cause
of it.

Fate of civil
dissentions.
Little
Schism a-
mongst the
Protestants,
betwixt
themselves,
and why.

most of his, now strongest Towns
and places of Importance: But
the *Seign* is now much altered,
and they shrewdly contracted,
especially since the stir under that
late and incomparable person, the
D. of Rohan: the folly of their
own private Interests, having e-
vidently proved their fatal de-
struction; as it is most frequent-
ly seen to fall out (first or last)
amongst all contrivers of *Civil*
and *Popular Dissentions*. How-
ever, thus far I must needs vindi-
cate the *Protestants of France*,
That we finde not amongst them
those frequent *Schismaticus* and
broachers of ridiculous *Enthu-
siasms*, as abound amongst us;
every particular so unanimously
concurring with their *Pastor*,
That, in truth, they are herein
not unworthy to be commended;
though that *vertue* likewise were
the more estimable, were it not
certainly constrained by the vigi-
lancy of their *Antagonists*, who
watch all advantages to discom-
pose,

pose, and defame them. To be short, though they have lost many great ones, and much strength, and that the form of their Discipline invite few, yet the light of their attempts hath invited so many to look into the reason of things beyond the mask of Tradition, and mystery of Policy, that it is both thought, and well known, That even divers of those who are persons of greatest eminency, both in Church and State, have so good an inclination to change some points of the received opinions, That were it not more out of secular consideration, to lose their preferments; then any other inconveniencey, many of them would openly profess themselves *Jansenianists*, *Montinists*, &c. Whose opinions, as they infinitely propagate amongst them, so do they come on a great way towards a Reformation.

Inclinations of many great ones to a Reformation.

Jansenianists, Montinists.

The Forces of France is that which renders it (as indeed it doth) all

Forces of France.

all other Kingdoms) most formidable abroad, and secure at home.

Advantage.
ous fit of
France.

The *Frame* and *Posture* of the *Continent*, situated as it were in the *Navel* of all the *Christian World*, qualifies it to collect, unite and dispose of her forces; for it hath *Spain* and *Italy* before it, *England* behinde; The *Seas* upon the right, and *Germany* upon the left-hand; at one corner the *Netherlands*, and the *Cantons* of the *Suisse* at the other; all of them potent, considerable, and active *Neighbors*; and where they intermit, it is a worthy prospect to behold, how *Nature* hath served and defended her with the *Pyrenes*, *Alps*, *Ocean*, and *Mediterranean Seas*, whilst she sitting secure from any subitaneous irruption or natural *pretension*, may well be pronounced, a fair and most *Just Empire*; and especially, since the later accession of *Bretagne*, *Guyenne*, *Normandy* (once the goodly portions of the *English*)

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English) and *Bourgogne*, who are now all of them under one Prince, as having enjoyed heretofore every one their proper *Dukes*; by whose favor or spleen there was always a facile entrance for any potent stranger to disturb the rest of the *Kingdom*; the consequences whereof, have filled almost every modern *Chronicle*. And to the stronger twisting of this Cord, such prudence hath been had of late times, that all those great and powerful houses remain now no more divided (as still amongst the *Princes of Italy and Germany*) the *Cadets* and younger *Brothers*, minding for the most part no greater preferments, then what they cut out with their Sword, and merit in *Field* by being *Soldiers of Fortune*. Cadets and younger Brothers, all Soldiers of Fortune.

As for the *Forces by Sea*, as it Francis the first, re-proached, and why? was never great, so we do not read, That ever any signal *action* hath been atchieved by any of their *Navigations*; for which cause, *Francis the first*, was once pretty

Maritime
Forces and
Havens.

Late Ac-
quists.

pretty well resolved to make use of the *Turk*, and call in that stout *Miscreant*, to the eternal reproach, both of that *Prince* and *Nation*; notwithstanding, at this instant, their *Maritime* strength is not totally so contemptible, having a very stately and considerable *Armada* of handsome *Gal- lies*, in most of their *Mediterranean Ports*, as at *Toulon*, *Marseilles*, and other places, which are Vessels of excellent use and service upon those *Seas*: On the *Ocean*, I confess, both their *Shipping* and *Traffique* have been a like trivial; and yet of late, they have greatly augmented their *Fleet*, especially since the time (to our *Nations* egregious shame and dishonor) that they have made so large inroads and gaps into *Flanders*, towards the *Sea Coasts*; Witness those strong *Towns* and *Havens* of *Dunkirk*, *Marlike*, &c. stout *Ports*, and very commodious *Harbors* for *Shipping*; so that a little time (if we

we will still suffer it) may likewise furnish them with Ships enough to make them stand in a bolder competition with their Neighbors.

But the more principall Nerve of the French Power consists in his Forces at Land; and amongst them (as hath already been touched) chiefly his Cavalry, which is of strength and spectacle both of admiration and gallantry, they being for the greater part composed of *Gentlemen*, who generally so bequeath themselves to this service, that hee who (amongst them) hath not made two or three *Campaigns* (as they use to term it) by that time he is 18 yeers of age (is esteemed as a person *lasche*, that is, of a soft education and small repute: Besides, the *Horse* is an exercise unto which they have so naturall a disposition and addresse, that the whole earth doth not contain so many *Academies* dedicated chiefly to this Discipline, & other martiall

Land Forces

Cavalry of France the best of Europe.

The Horse an exercise proper to the French youth. Their Academies and other Gymnasticks.

tiall *Gymnastiques*, wherein they handsomly attain to competent perfection in whatsoever is active and proper for their youth and inclinations.

Souldiery of
France com-
mended.

And what incomparable *soul-
diers* this Country hath in all ages bred, we need look out no further for testimony, then their many past and present Acquisitions and Enterprises, under *Harcourt, Condé, Gassion*, and infinite others: besides, (what is no trivial mark of our assertion) the multitudes of such who are at present employed in the Services of Forraign Princes. Very undeniable it is, that the *Spanish* Infantry is too hard for the *French* Foot: for the *Peasants* of *France* (of whom they should naturally consist) are thought (and that upon good grounds) to be more then accidentally improper and *mal-adroit* for that service. Howbeit, we finde (and that by quotidian experience) that *Custom*, or something else more propitious,

Spanish and
Fr. Infantry
compared

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pitious, hath much altered and reformed their Natures, even in this particular instance: And for ought I perceive, they keep what they have gotten, and become as good Soldiers, as those who brag so much of their *lowse* and *renacious* Epitheton: But I must confess, how few *Indigene* and naturall *Spaniards* serve now against them; all the old braye foot having been for the greater part slain, or continued unrecruted, at and since the signal Battel of *Rocroy*, where (thogh with their own destinies) they bravely made good that general and worthy repute wch the world hath of the *Infantry* of that Nation. And however, had this reproach a more solid ground, yet that saying of *Machiavel* in his *Ritratto*, That *Le Fanterie che si fanno in Francia non possono esser buono per che gli è, gran tempo che non hanno havuto guerra, e per questo non hanno spexienza alcuna, &c.* Is now no more an Argument, Then that the

A saying of
Machiavel.

the *premises* being changed, the Conclusion must needs remain, considering that the *Cause* being taken away, through their present exercise, and perpetual War, the *Effect and Defect* cannot of consequence ensue, as we have already sufficiently proved: or admit it were yet so, I hope the *Swiss* and other faithful *Mercenaries* to that Crown, abundantly supply all these wants and prejudices; most of which, yet notwithstanding, for my part, were, I think, first hired rather out of consideration of *diversion*, and since *custom*, then otherwise out of any pure necessity. That likewise which made the *Armies* of France so inconsiderable for native Foot Soldiers, may with much reason too (if we please) be attributed unto *Lewis the Eleventh* his disarming of the *Commons*; by which advice, the *King* indeed became more *absolute* at home amongst his *Vassals*, but a great deal less formidable abroad amongst his *Enemies*.

Consequence
of disarming
the Com-
mons.

And herein it was, that his Neighbors stood him in stead.

Another thing rendering this Kingdom very considerable for an Army, is, their *Prolifique* mul-

France is
bucundant in
People and
Viduals.

plying; for Europe embraceth not a more populous Nation, nor more abounding in *Viduals*,

which is the *body* of that cruel beast, called *War*; so *Pervil*, I

say it is, That when *Charles the first* entered into *France* by *Provence*,

and afterwards by *Champagne*, it nourished (besides the

many Garrisons thereof) more than an Hundred and fifty thou-

sand Ravenous Soldiers; and even in the time of *Charles the sixth*,

there were found in this Kingdom, Twenty thousand Horse,

and Thirty thousand Foot, all consisting of strangers; and Fif-

teen thousand Horse, and One hundred thousand Foot, all of

Natural French. And verily, when we have seriously surveigh-

ed the complication of *Enemies*, which once invested this King-

dom,

dom, when for *Extent* and *Command*, it was far inferior to what it is at present, since the *English* have been dispossessed, *Navar* adjoyned, and other additions of great strength: I say, when *England*, *Germany*, *Spain*, and *Italy*, invaded it on all parts, in the Reign of *Francis the first*, as it will appear, how potent and able this Kingdom united, is to defend it self: So doth the consideration of it seem to me most strange, and altogether portentous.

Store of
Arms, Am-
munition,
and Artille-
ry.

Adde to these advantages, their Store of good *Arms* and *Munition*, excellent *Artillery*, many famous and well furnished *Magazines*; in sum, Why should I farther tire you with particulars, when their present *Exploits*, and almost continual *Triumphs*, have planted the *Flower de Lyces* where ever they break ground. Witness those renowned adventures

Ancient and
late Acquisitions

since *Charlemaigne*, *St. Lewis*, *Charles d'Anjou*, *Charles the eighth*, &c.

&c. whose Heroicque Achievements and glorious Trophies, have filled all Histories and Countreys, even as far as *Asia* herself; witness their Expeditions and Successes at *Jerusalem*, in *Egypt*, *Barbary*, *Cyprus*, *Greece*, *Naples*, *Saxony*, *Hungary*, and sundry other places, even in these our times, and before our own doors; witness all their late Acquisitions and Conquests in *Catalunia*, *Spain*, *Italy*, *Flanders*, &c. Besides the Signal Battels and Sieges of *Nordlingen*, *Rocroy*, *Perpignian*, *Theonvil*, *Arras*, *Dunkirk*, &c. Not to repeat the miraculous, or rather ingenious reduction of *La Rochel*, *Montpelier*, and other impregnable holds appertaining to the *Protestants*; So that if now we see them begin to decline, and refund what they have so hastily swallowed down, it is but the common fate of all humane undertakings, all things having a period in this World, that had a beginning.

And

The common fate of all humane Enterprises

Church near
a third part
of France.

Frontiers &
Maritime
coasts how
fortified at
present.

State of Fr.
at present.

And now, albeit the Church (who is near a good third part of France) doth in most places (as the Proverb goes) neither lose nor defend any thing; yet here in times of publick and emergent necessities, have they been made contribute most bountifully towards the maintaining of Armies and Supplies.

Nor are the *Frontiers*, and *Maritime* coasts of this Kingdom so ill fortified now, as in former times; but there hath been of late so through a reformation and care had in that regard, that it were hard to call to minde a considerable place at present but is capable to support a long and strenuous resistance; especially those Harbours and Keys of the Countrey which respect our Coasts: as *Haver*, *Calais*, *Diepe*, and divers other places of Importance.

In fine, *France* is at this present grown to that *stature*, so well planted; and commodiously

laid to it self, that (but for their own madnesse, and the feared fate of these times, which already begins to work) in the reall Interest & balance with her Neighbours, it were high time she were now a little observed, and a *Non ultra* fixed unto her proceedings and future aspirings: Nor doubt I at all, but if the *Low Countries* were able to preserve her *Neutrality*, but *England* with *Spain* (as poor and contemptible as she is now grown) may one day so exercise this ambitious Kingdom, as she may be glad to contain her self within her own Confines, without molesting or incommoding of her Neighbours.

High time that a *Non ultra* were fixed to her greatnesse.

I deny not, that even the greatnesse of *Spain* her self were as much to be apprehended, equally as dangerous, did not her accustomed swelling and unnatural *Plethory* most certainly incline to a *Tympany*, rather then shew it proceeded from any strong and sane constitution: their over-grasping

The greatnesse of *Spain* suspicious, and how far it concerns us.

The humour
of the Spa-
niard liken-
ed.

England's
best bulwark
and balance.

Qu. Eliza-
beths polky

Danger in
the Accessi-
on of the
Low Coun-
tries to Fr.

⚡

grasping humour, being much like his, who desiring a good handfull of sand, by griping it over hard, loseth more through his fingers, then he can carry away in all his palm: So that in this case, our onely best Bulwark is *France*; and (*vice versa*) oppos'd to their power, *Spain*, so long as this *antipathie* amongst them continues, and they remain in one entire bodie. For this cause it was, and for no other, that *Queen Elizabeth* would very wisely by no means consent to that offer of *Cantonizing* this Kingdom, when in the time of the late *League* she was offered a considerable share. But on the other side, the Accession of the *Low Countries* to this Empire, were beyond all comparison more perillous, then if they had also never started aside from their lawfull *Master*; and this by reason of their *Situation*, *Vicinity*, *Ports*, *Traffick*, *Towns of defence*, the infinite disadvantages where-
of,

of we should soon acknowledge to our cost and ignominy.

As touching the *Protestants*, they are yet so numerous in *France*, and the *Roman Catholics* so averse in that point, as there can never spring up the least appearance of hope that the King of *Spain* should ever pretend any thing in this Country by way of inclination or defection; however, the late *Jesuits* (notwithstanding all those strict *Edicts* and *Bans* made against them) begin to swarme and re-establish themselves. And so I have done with the more generall remarks worthy your consideration. I shall only say a word or two of the people, and of *Paris* in particular, and so finish this task.

That the Spaniard hath no pretence to alienate the French subjects, by his instruments the *Jesuits*, and why?

Concerning the *Nature* and *Genius* of the *Inhabitants*, that which the *Prince of Politicians* gives out of the French, where he affirms, that *I Francesi sono per natura più fieri, che gagliardi e deboli*, Upon what *Cesar* of old

Genius and nature of the people.

G

said

Cæſarſ ſay-
ing of the
Galli Inſu-
bræ,

ſaid of the *Galli Inſubres*, that in the beginning they appeared more then *Men*, but proved in the concluſion leſſe then *Women*, retains in it ſtill ſomething of their preſent promptneſſe, and as ſudden diſcouragement: Upon which obſervation, the fore-cited *Florentine* notably adviſeth, *Cibi vuole ſuperare i Franceſi ſi guardi dal primo loro impeto*, &c. That he who would vanquiſh the *French*, ſhould be ſure to withſtand and break their firſt *bruſk* and onſet; becauſe they uſually ruſh on upon danger like a torrent, and in a deſperate fury, when they firſt charge and joye battell: but as nothing which is violent is permanent, ſo expectation as ſoon ruines, and utterly daunts their courage.

French fury
at onſet.

Learned men
in France.

But as for their *Intellectuall*, and more noble part, ſuch of them as dedicate themſelves to Letters and *Erudition*, prove as polite *Scholars* and as trim Wits as any *Italian* of them all. The greater

greater part of them, I confesse, and ordinary *Pretenders*, please themselves more in *Analyticall* and cursory speculations, to which one may take post at every pillar in the streets, where you shal never fail of some braggadocio *Hippias*, who like some *Intellectus universalis*, professes, and will undertake to render any man an exact and perfect *Philosopher*, *Divine*, *Orator*, *Chymist*; or to teach him all *Languages*, and indeed, what not, within the space of a month or two: which kind of Table Method and *Lullian art*, renders many of them, even to the very *Mechanicks*, most egregious talkers, and intolerably pragmaticall.

Pedantry of
some profel-
sors.

Add unto this, their levelling of Learning, and laying all *Authors* in common, by their intemperate *Translations*, having but of very late put all the *Orations* of *Cicero* into *French*, as it is long since that the *Poets* have been made *Orators*: for there is no-
G 2 thing

Their level-
ing of lear-
ning.

thing more frequent than the turning of them into *prosa*.

The Facul-
ties of Paris

Amongst the *Faculties* of *Paris*, there are some good and *dextrous Divines*; but their School *Exercises* are dull and perfunctory things, in competition with what was wont to be performed here in our *Universities*.

Physicians &
Chirurgians
of France,
their Me-
thod and ill
success.

Generally, the *Chirurgians* of *France* are Pretenders to *Physick*, and the *Physician* as great a friend to the *Emperick*; especially in point of *Phlebotomy*, which is their *Panacea* for all Diseases. And albeit they have bred some able and accomplish'd *Professors* of all these kinds; yet their common practice in tedious and *Chronique*, as well as acute diseases, imports them rather to a sudden ease of the *patient*, than any intire recovery; or security from relapse; for they study more to weaken and enervate the Body, than the Disease: so that they recover few of *languishing Fevers*,

vers, which relapse not as soon again; and for the most part perish: contrary both to the Method and success of our Physicians in England; into one of whose hands I had rather put my life, than to a whole Colledg of these French Leaches.

Praise of
English
Physicians.

In the Mechanicks, they are universally excellent, inventive, and happy; and are of late too become far more stay'd and constant in point of habit and fashion than they were wont to be: for I will undertake, our native levity and wantonnesse in that kinde, hath of late yeers infinitely exceeded them.

French Mechanicks incomparable,

The French Children are the fairest letter that Nature, I think, can shew through all the humane Alphabet; but though they be Angels in the cradle, yet are they more like Devils in the saddle: age generally shewing, that what she so soon bestowes, she takes as fast away; for the French (after twenty) presently strike forty in

French children and youth.

Sudden decay of Women.

their faces, and especially amongst their *Women*, who are then extremely decayed, when ours, if not *beautifull*, are yet very *rottable* at those years; which, whether it proceeds from the *siccity* of the air, *drinking water*, ill diet, or other *accident*, I dare not easily determine; and yet I am the rather inclined to think, something of that nature it must needs be, when we finde the *women* of *Quality* for the most part as exquisite Beauties as any the whole world produces, without disparaging our *Ladies* at home, whom I would be unwilling this *Paragraph* should in the least degree offend.

Youth of the French Gentry not bred to letters, and why?

I cannot affirm that the *youth* of the *Gentry* and *Noblesse* of *France* are bred altogether so *literate* as most of our *English* and *Dutch* are; being, as I said, of lesse *phlegme*, and more prompt then to fix to those inactive studies; Nor are they at all so curious and inquisitive in their *Travels*,

vels, unto which fewer also are inclined, but seem abundantly satisfied, to be able to say, They have been in such, or such a place.

Humour in Travelling.

No trust to the curward p carmce

It is a true observation of one, That a *French man* appears a *child* at all ages; but in practice and negotiation you shall finde him a *man*. It is the *Field* and *Court* which the *Gentry* affect as the best of Education; and thence I am inclined to beleieve, they contract amongst them that indifference of beleieving and living, in which they are generally more open and free then even the *Italians*; albeit yet not in all points so enormous as the depraved youth of *England*, whose prodigious disbaucheries and late unheard of extravagancies, far surpass the madnesse of all other civilized Nations whatsoever. Gaming also they frequent, but are in no one vice so abandoned, as to the exhausting their *Estates*, especially in point of *drink* and *Tobacco*;

Indifferency of the Fr. in religion.

The French not so disbaunched as the English youth at present.

Nor more given to Gaming.

Nothing so much to drink and tobacco.

but adorers
of bread and
pottage.

which, though it have of late got some footing upon the more *vile* sort, and infected some *Northern* parts of the Kingdom; yet few persons of Quality use either in *excesse*: But what they do not in *drink*, they pay in *bread*, and are strange devourers of *Corn*; they adore a good *pottage* (whatever the rest of the *Repast* be) as the *Egyptians* did *garlick*: nor will a true *Monsieur* be brought at any rate to taste a glasse of wine, *sans premier manger*; which although they neither do so much, nor sit so long at it, yet they use to *collation* more often, the most temperate of them.

Elevated &
dejected sud-
denly with
victory or
losse.

Splendid in
externals.

The *passions* of the people are suddenly imported and puffed up with a *Victory*, and as soon dejected with the least repulse or loss. They are prodigall, and splendid in *externals*, but seldome undoe themselves in *house-keeping* and *hospitality*: The best sort eat like *Princes*, and far exceed our *Tables*; the *common* worse then *dogs*:

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...s; generally, so they flourish
 and appear for a month or two in
 the Summer, they will fare hard
 enough the rest of the year be-
 sides; and such as minde onely ^{Full of In-}
 their profit, have little ^{terests} charity,
 where they see no evident Inter-
 est. They are exceedingly *cour-*
teous, and have generally their
garments well hung; which promp-
 titude of theirs, as it becomes
 them well in encounter, so they
 are for the most part, of *joviall*
conversation, and far from that
 constrained addresse which is na-
 tural to our *fallen Nation*, who
 never think our selves acquainted,
 till we treat one another with
Jack and Tom; familiarities, ^{Censure of}
 which, as we finde no where else ^{the rude fa-}
 in use, so they commonly termi- ^{miliarities of}
 nate in vaine and rude Associa- ^{the English.}
 tions.

The French are the sole Na- ^{French re-}
 tion in Europe that do *idolize* ^{verencers of}
 their *Soveraign*, unto whom they ^{their King.}
 have likewise a more free and
 immediate *accesse* (without much

and his affa-
bility to
them.

ceremony) then ordinarily is to be seen in any other *Princes Courts*; and this affabilitie and freedom gains them as strangely to him; which (certainly) is an excellent art in the one, and no lesse a vertue in the other. But on the contrary, their *choler* thoroughly stirred, there never wants some *Raviliac* or *cut-throat* to perpetrate their malice; so unstable is popular confidence.

Their opini-
on and hate
of the En-
glish,

Stature,

complexion,

Finally, they have a naturall dread and hate to the *English*, as esteeming us for the most part, a fierce, rude, and barbarous *Nation*: but their *antipathy* to a *Spaniard* is deadly and irreconcilable.

For their *Bodies*, they are both *Sexes* of *mean stature*, rather in *good point*, then either lean or grosse; generally, swart of complexion, except such as have mixed towards the *North* and *East*: the *Women* have commonly *black eyes*, *rare teeth*, and *sweet voyces*; and certainly, so gentle and naturall an *addresse* even in their most

most ordinary actions, that one may as easily distinguish them by it, as their *tongues*: In fine, they are extremely *prompt*, and imagine ^{promptness,} to comprehend all upon an *instant*; which makes many to give out and tire in the journey before they be half way: for all which, and their oppressions to boot, ^{and cheerful} these lives not under the *cope* of ^{supinity of} *heaven* a more *frank, galiard,* and *supine* people: howbeit many of them will not stick to *repine*, and ^{Victories} ^{unwelcom,} ^{to the Fr.} ^{and why?} *censure* even their own *Victories* and successes, whereof every one but seems to add a heavier weight to their *Oppression*.

Now, as every *Metropolitan* ^{The best &} ^{most com-} ^{pendious} ^{Map of a} ^{Country.} and *Royal City* is likely the best *Map* of the *Country* wherein it stands; so may *Paris* be esteem'd the most exact *Compendium* of *France*.

Paris is a *City* in a *Ring*, ^{Paris, &c,} ^{Edifices, &c.} whereof the *Louvre* or *Palace* of the *King* is the *Diamond*: And truly, considering the vastness of its circumference, so incomparably

bly built all of the *living Rock*, whereupon it is seated (which for beauty, easie working, and lastingness, renders it a preheminnence above many more costly Materials) I think no *City* in the whole world equalizes it. I have seen *Naples, Rome, Florence, Genoa, and Venice*; all stately *Cities*, and full of Princely *Fabricks*; but then I compare the extent, and here are many *Centuries* of *Noblemens Houses*, both within the *Town* and the *Environs*, which altogether approach, if not exceed the best of them. This I will boldly affirm, that for the *Streets, Suburbs, and common buildings*, it infinitely excels any *City* else in *Europe*: for publick *Edifices*, some of the *Hospitals* are fair *Foundations* and handsome *Piles*; but the *Convents* and *Churches* come far short of the *Towns* before recited: yet that of the *Sorbonne* and *Jesuites*, are not much inferiour to some of the best and most modern *Pieces* of

of *Architecture* extant, qu'il

The River of Seine, which divides it, is nothing comparable, for sweetnesse and good condition, to our Royal River of Thames: yet it would deceive any man in the use, when he shall seriously examine and consider the huge Vessels of burden (though not Ships) it brings up, full of Commodities, and necessary Provisions. In conclusion, Paris wants nothing but clean Streets, and a redresse of the multitude of Coaches, Languays, and throngs of Mankind; with all which, it is generally supposed, that it appears a miracle to me, how so many backs are clothed, and bellies maintained (in a Town of no eminent Staple) as you may behold in one day, if you walk the streets and publick Carfours. Most of the Houses ordinarily harbouring six, as often ten families betwixt heaven and hell, the Garrets and the Cellars: and this I take to be the true cause of that Nastiness which we usually

The River of Seine.

Number of people &c. in Paris too great.

True cause of our reproaching their Nastiness.

Persons of
quality more
neat and
sumptuous
then any in
England,

The extent
of Paris and
London dif-
ficult to be
compared,
and why?

Prodigious
increase of
buildings,

ally impute to the Nation: *Per-
sons of Quality*, and such as
have room enough, being far
more proper and *sumptuous* in
their houses, than the best of us
here in *England*, however we
arrogate the contrary.

Touching the *Extent of this
City*, it hath been, and is still a
great controversie amongst our
Country-men *Travellers*, which
is the larger, *This or London*,
every one speaks according to
his inclinations: But the *figures*
of them both are so different,
that it would be a very diffi-
cult matter to reconcile them,
by making an exact tryall: and
peradventure, all things consi-
dered; there is as yet no very
great inequality: but if we may
conjecture from the buildings at
present, and prodigious enlarge-
ment of their *Suburbs* on all sides,
what a little time and *Peace* will
render it, it must, without doubt,
in a short time outgrow the
convention, and far exceed it.
for

for I finde no end of their ere-
cting not onely of particular
houses, but even of whole *streets*,
and those so incomparably fair
and *uniform*, that you would i-
magine your self rather in some
Italian Opera, where the diversity
of *Scenes* surprise the beholder;
then beleve your self to be in a
real *Citie*. This is onely to be
observed in their prime *Build-
ings* and *Palaces*, that the best
Fabricks commonly promise less
towards the *Front* or *Street*,
then you will finde them within
the *Court*; which is caused by
the high walls and *carraces* that
shwart them: a piece of *Mode-
stie*, which in other *Appearances*
and outsidés they do not usually
practise.

Survey of
the new new
Edifices of
Paris.

But what our *City of London*
hath not in *houses* and *Palaces*,
she hath in *Shops* and *Taverns*;
which render it so open by day,
and cheerfull in the night, that
it appears to be a perpetuall
Wake, or *Wedding* to the behol-
der;

London for
shops, Ta-
verns, o-
ther drink-
ing Schools,
and Noise,
exceeding
all Cities of
the world.

der; for so mad and drowdy a Town, is no where to be found in the whole world.

Governments
of Paris.

10 1230

Prevoft of
Merchandise

Archbishop
of Paris, &c.

Disorders of
Paris, in the
night, how
they might
be prevented

The Government and Policy of this *Prevofté* is exercised by Judges, called *Lieutenants Civils* and *Criminels*; who, for purchasing their Offices of the Court, sell their Justice at extraordinary rate, to such as have use of that rate Commodity. They have also a *Prevoft of the Merchants*, & *les Eschevins*, which is an Office more resembling our Recorder and Sheriff, then Major: Likewise the Archbishop hath a spirituall jurisdiction here; as also some particular Abbots and Priors: And with all this, I cannot say, it is well governed; the disorders of every day and night will convince me; if I should, when so many execrable Murders and Villanies are committed in the Streets; an inconvenience which might yet be easily prevented, if they would but imitate our Policy, and form their

their *Watches* of constant and responsible persons.

Neither is the strength of this renowned City any thing considerable in stresse of a *Siege*, or respect of other naturall advantage, save onely fire: nay, so open it is to the *Conquerour*, that *S' Denys* (which lies but two leagues remote from it) hath oftentimes been the *Frontier of France*; & had not the late *Mareschal de Gassion* as deerly, as bravely purchased their *Liberty* at the signal battell of *Rocroy*, the *Spainyard*, 'tis beleev'd, might (without the least obstacle) have marched up to the very gates of *Paris*.

But the incomparable *Aire* of *Paris* is that which fortifies the *Inhabitants*: so that very seldom hath a *Plague* or other *Epidemical Contagion* made here that havock and lamentable *devastation*, which it so frequently doth in our putrified *climate*, and accidentally suffocated *City*: contrary to that *Vulgar* (but most false) *Tradition*,

Strength of
Paris no-
thing in a
siege.

Mareschal
de Gassion
preserved
Paris from
the Spany-
ard.

The Aire of
Paris cele-
brated.

The ordinary tradition amongst us, which I find in every man's mouth ; that the *Pestilence* is never out of *Paris* : but this (besides the *fecity* of the aire) many *Naturalists* ascribe to the over *sulphurous* exhalations of the streets, and dry attracting quality of the *Plaster*, which, bears or gives the Name to this goodly city.

Quality of
the Plaster
of Paris.

*Certe id firmissimum Imperium
est, quo obedientes gaudent.*



Thus, Sir, by the assistance of your Patience, I have adventured to draw the *Curtain*, discovering a very ample *Theatre*, in a short time, and represented it in as
nar-

narrow a *Circumference*, as those *Artists* who introduce a multitude of *Species* through an *Optick*, into some dark room or closet: And the similitude peradventure will not appear *unapt*, when you consider the reversed *Method*, and *confused* *Stile* in which it is described. But as writing of *Histories* is not my *Trade*, I know you have not commanded me to undergo this *Task*, to make thereby any advantage of my *Imperfections*, but ap-
prove

prove mine Obedience.
 And now, although I
 doubt not but many a-
 ble Persons have most
 excellently treated upon
 this very Subject, appro-
 priated to their Times;
 yet I will be bold to af-
 firm, and that sans vani-
 tie, none hath lately
 performed it with grea-
 ter faith, succinctnesse, and
 in more natural Colours.
 For hee that will truly
 comprehend the Govern-
 ment and Genius of this
 Kingdome, must prospect
 and look out every day
 for new discoveries, France
 being

being now no more the
 thing it was forty years
 since, then the *garb* and
fashion at that time, to
 the *habit* and *Mode* now
 in use amongst them,
 equally as different, as
incomparable: And in
 truth, (to disabuse the
 World) the *complexion*
 and *Crafsis* of this Body
Politick is of so high con-
 cernment to the *health*,
 and good estate of our
 poor Nation, that to pre-
 serve her in entire *habit*
 and *Constitution*, there
 can never be too often
 inspections into the State
 and

(118)

and Regiment of this
Kingdom. This is the
opinion of

Paris, this
15 of Febr.
1671.
Sillo novo.

Sir,

Your most affectio-
nate Friend,

and
most obedient Servant,

and Commission

FINIS.

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